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DIARY

of

THE REVEREND ABRAHAM RATZLAFF

Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas
1983

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FORWARD

This Diary has been translated in the memory of The Reverend and Mrs. Abraham Ratzlaff by Mrs. Martha Dyck of North Newton, Kansas; and typed and edited by Mrs. Lloyd (Hilda) Crosswait, their granddaughter.

DIARY OF THE REVEREND ABRAHAM RATZLAFF

1883

January 6, 1883

Brother Unruh, Brother Heidebrecht and I conducted a worship service in Uncle Ewert's school. Brother Heinrich Richert spoke first in the forenoon on the text in Matthew 2, verse 1-12, followed by Brother Unruh, who had as his text 2 Corinthians 9, verse 6.

Brother Heidebrecht and I preached in the afternoon. Heidebrecht had as his text (not given). My text was Isaiah 12, verse 5, "Sing praises to the Lord for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth."

January 7, 1883

These two brethern and I conducted another worship service in Ewert's school in the forenoon. My text was Jonah 4, verses 10-11. Brother Unruh's text was (not given) and Brother Heidebrecht's (not given).

We drove as far as Alexanderwohl for the night. Brother Goerz stopped at the Canton Church. There we had worship service in the evening. My text was John 17, verse 24; and Genesis 24, verse 56, was Brother Heidebrecht's text. Brother Unruh's text was Genesis 24, verse 23. We left for home the 9th in the morning. We found our loved ones all well and thank God for watching over them.

January 13, 1883

Brothers Unruh, Warkentin, Peter Ratzlaff and I drove to the "Michaliener." Brother Unruh and I preached in their church on Sunday, the 14th, both in the forenoon and evening. My text in the morning was John 14, verse 23 and Genesis 3, verse 9. Brother Unruh preached on Genesis 24, 23 in the forenoon and I John 2, verses 15 and 16 in the evening. Then we drove home where we found everyone alive and well and give Him the praise for this. We got together at our place in the evening to discuss how to manage the machinery.

January 16, 1883

We teachers met at my place in the afternoon. Johann Ratzlaffs were there too. We discussed our circuit riding and how we could fulfill our duties the best in this undertaking. We also discussed Daniel Martin's behavior. We agreed that Brother Unruh and Brother Gaeddert should go to Martin together and interrogate him to see how he stands or thinks about certain questions.

January 17, 1883

Benjamin, Brother John and I drove to Hutchinson to secure some wine for the Canton Church for Holy Communion. We drove to church worship in the evening which was lead by Brother Unruh and Brother Ratzlaff. Brother Unruh's text was 2 Peter 3, verses 10-13, and Brother Ratzlaff's was Matthew 9, verses 18-26.

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January 18, 1883

Our parents and we butchered hogs together. They butchered two and we two. Ratzlaffs left for home in the afternoon. Brother Gaeddert came from Pawnee Rock on Thursday, the 18th. It started thawing and at half past four the temperature started falling so that the temperatures fell to 19^0 and to 20^0 in the morning. It was a bit warmer on Saturday. Brother Jacob Ratzlaff came to visit from South Dakota.

January 20, 1883

We drove to church on Sunday. Brother Balzer, Brother Unruh and Brother Jacob Ratzlaff preached. Unruh's text was Matthew 8, 1-13, Brother Balzer's, John 2, 16-17, and Ratzlaff's the Gospel of John, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

January 21, 1883

We were together at Gaedderts to discuss various subjects. We arranged to have a meeting of the Brotherhood on M. the 17th on Saturday. (that M could be March or May, translator) Benjamin Ratzlaff and Jacob Ratzlaff drove to the Canton Congregation and from there to Alexanderwohl for the examination (or investigation). Henry hauled wheat to Burrton. He got 70¢ per bushel, altogether $29.80.

January 22, 1883

I hauled wheat to Burrton again. I had 40 bushels 5 pounds at 70¢ and received $22.05.

January 24, 1883

Heinrich and I drove to Halstead with wheat. We had 93 bushels, 20 pounds and got 70¢ per bushel. Received $65.30. Brother P. Ratzlaff with his bride was at our house when we came home in the evening. We discussed several things. It was nice weather during the day but in the evening the wind turned north and it became somewhat cooler. Brother Kliewer led the worship service in church that evening.

On the 23rd, I sold my black yearling to Elder Stucky for $95 and he paid me $43 right away. Then on the 25th I borrowed $175 from father at 6%. Benjamin and Jacob Ratzlaff came home from Johann Ratzlaffs today. The weather was nice today.

January 26, 1883

I drove to Halstead with Brother Becker and Brother Ratzlaff today. From there Brother Becker drove on to Newton and paid the notes for each one $100 and also together $38.20. The weather was pleasant.

January 27, 1883

The Brotherhood meeting was Saturday evening regarding the rebuilding of the church. It was decided that Brother Becker, Cornelius Voth and Johann Heidebrecht should buy the wood for this undertaking. Peter Kliewer's debts were discussed and a collection was taken which brought in $20.

January 18, 1883

Our parents and we butchered hogs together. They butchered two and we two. Ratzlaff's left for home in the afternoon. Brother Goodsert came from Pawnee Rock on Thursday, the 18th. It started thawing and at half past four the temperature started falling so that the temperature fell to 19° and to 20° in the morning. It was a bit warmer on Saturday. Brother Jacob Ratzlaff came to visit from South Dakota.

January 20, 1883

We drove to church on Sunday. Brother Balzer, Brother Unruh and Brother Jacob Ratzlaff preached. Unruh's text was Matthew 8, 1-13. Brother Balzer's, John 2, 18-22, and Ratzlaff's the Gospel of John, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

January 21, 1883

We were together at Sandberts to discuss various subjects. We arranged to have a meeting of the Brotherhood on M. the 11th on Saturday. (that M could be March or May, translator) Benjamin Ratzlaff and Jacob Ratzlaff drove to the Canton congregation and from there to Alexanderwohl for the examination (or investigation). Henry hauled wheat to Burrton. He got 75¢ per bushel, altogether $29.50.

January 22, 1883

I hauled wheat to Burrton again. I got 5¢ bushels 2 pounds at the mill received $22.05.

January 24, 1883

Heinrich and I drove to Halstead with wheat. We had 63 bushels, 20 pounds and got 70¢ per bushel. Received $43.50. Brother B. Balzler with his brides was at our house when we came home in the evening. We discussed several things. It was nice weather during the day but in the evening it wind turned north and it became somewhat colder. Brother Kliewer had the morning service in church that evening.

On the 22nd, I sold my black yearling to Julius Sommer for $25 and he paid me $25 right away. Then on the 23rd I borrowed $200 from Kaufman at 6%. Benjamin and Jacob Ratzlaff came home from Johann Ratzlaff's today. The weather was nice today.

January 25, 1883

I drove to Halstead with Brother Balzer and Brother Ratzlaff today. From there Brother Balzer drove on to Newton and paid the notes for each one $100 and also together $24.10. The weather was pleasant.

January 27, 1883

The Brotherhood meeting was Saturday evening concerning the reconciling of the church. It was decided that Brother Balzer, Cornelius Jantz and Johann Dietrichs should buy the wood for this year's heating. Peter Kliewer's cows were discussed and a collection was taken which brought in $20.

January 28, 1883

Brother Jacob Ratzlaff and I conducted the worship service here. My text was Genesis 22, 7, and Brother Ratzlaff spoke on John 15, 1-9. It was nice weather. We visited Peter Ratzlaff in the afternoon.

January 29, 1883

We visited our brother-in-law Dick on Monday.

January 30, 1883

Today we were at Preacher Peter Ratzlaff's wedding. The ceremony was performed by Brother Balzer and his sermon was on 1 Peter 5, 7-11. Brother Ratzlaff and Johann gave short talks in the evening. The first spoke on Joshua 22, 5 and the second on Jeremiah 28, 29.

January 31, 1883

We were at Peter Schmidts. It was somewhat cold.

February 1, 1883

We visited our parents and Heinrich Wedels came for the evening.

February 2, 1883

It was cold and at 10 p.m. it was 10°.

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Installation into the ministry - the beginning text was Isaiah 51, verse 16. As we examine this text closely we find both promise and gospel contained therein. This is what we human beings need. The plan of God for mankind is disclosed therein. God gave his promise soon after the fall. This promise came closer and closer all through the prophets. Also for you dear brethern, this text contains precious promises. The gospel is closely connected with promise. The text says, "You are My people." Who can misunderstand the meaning of the word "My?" This little word pertains to you, dear brethern, together with the call, "You shall be My preacher." Therefore, I will read your duties for you: 1 Tim. 3, 8-13; and 2 Tim. 4, 4-5; Titus 2, and the 3rd Chapter to verse 11. Brothers, not only duties; these verses convey promises and good news, 1 Tim. 3, 13 and 2 Tim. 4, 1, and Titus 2 verse 13, and Chapter 13, 7. How glorious, how glorious!! The church or congregation

also has duties. 1 Thes. 2 verse 14, Chapter 3 (entire chapter) and 2 Thes. verse 15 to Chapter 3, verse 1-5. Also Hebrews 13, verse 17. I quote: "You are followers of the Church of God. You are our crown and glory. Because you remain in the Lord, we live, that you think of us for our well being irreproachable in holiness. You hold firm and stand on the instructions you have learned and obeyed." Now beloved brethern, I will address myself especially to you who have been elected to this ministry. Your duties come directly from God. You four as servants of God's Word and the two of you as servants of the Lord's Table and both the spiritual and bodily needs of the members. The twelve apostles say in Acts 6, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the Word of God to serve tables." They wanted to keep on preaching the Word of God. That is the way we interpret and explain it.

So, I ask you now, brethern, are you willing to be installed into this ministry by the Word and Spirit of God? If so, I ask you to stand. We will sing together two verses of "Now Thank We All Our God."

1st Verse

The mighty winds of God fill us with his strength and authority.
He cools our hearts torn with pain.
So you who are called, stand before God and his people to consecrate yourself to the task given to you by Jehovah.

2nd Verse

God's people look to them and dry their tears.
With the minds in prayer that surrounds them here today.
May you be the source from which all love originated.

Installation

1st Question:

Do you freely declare that you consider the call given you by this church does not come only from man but also from God and that you can freely declare this from your heart? Do you acknowledge this?

2nd Question:

We ask you, will you endeavor to carry out this call that you feel in your heart comes from God with the mercy and strength that Jesus Christ will give you and together with the congregation to faithfully use the gifts given to you to be good shepherds according to the Will of the Triune God? Do you promise this?

A separate question to those elected as deacons. Do you declare your calling as not to be called as preachers of the Word, but as servants at the Table and to meet the spiritual needs: Do you declare yourself prepared to fulfill your calling faithfully in this field? Do you declare and promise this?

A question for the sisters: May they rise for this: Will you faithfully support your husbands in their work, serve them as true helpers, be honest and good examples according to Paul's Word? Do you promise this?

October 29, 1884

Brother Jacob Regier and I left home and drove to Burrton where we stayed with Brother and Sister Dick over night. At 8 o'clock the next morning we left for Indiana by train. The district and general conference was to meet Sprunger's congregation at Berne and we were planning to attend this meeting. We arrived in the little town on Saturday morning and were given a friendly welcome. Elder Sprunger took us to our lodging.

At the worship service on Sunday morning Rev. Hirschler preached on the text taken from Matthew 5, 13-14, and Rev. Sprunger on Matthew 6, 8. This was especially for the candidates for baptism, Sunday school was held in the afternoon. Brother Ewert from Hillsboro and Brother Moyer preached in the evening. The district conference was held on Monday and Tuesday. We rested Wednesday and the general conference began on Thursday. Brother A. B. Shelly opened the conference with the words taken from Phillippians 2, verse 16. Friday there was a funeral for a Mr. Neuenschwander. It was conducted by Elder G. Suderman who talked on Hebrews 4, verse 1. Mr. Neuenschwander was an old man of whom they said he had lived to the end in his faith in Jesus Christ. The conference lasted until noon on November 12 on Wednesday. We left that evening for the return trip and arrived at Burrton Friday morning and got home that afternoon. Here I found everyone alive and well and may God be praised and thanked for this. The trip cost $3.25 from Burrton to Kansas City; from there to Fort Wayne $23.50, and from there to Berne $9.35 and the same the way back.

November 16, 1884

Brother Unruh and I preached at Gaedderts Sunday. My text was taken from Luke 8, verses 26-29. I preached in Gaeddert's school again on Sunday, the 23rd, on the text taken from Col. 4, verses 2-6. The brotherhood met in the afternoon to decide about the candidates for baptism. Brother Gaeddert, father and I were at Jacob Regiers Wednesday, and also drove to Abraham Regiers regarding the candidates.

Thursday, Brother Heinrich brought me the money from Halstead, $516.30. I gave father $120 Friday and with this he went to Burrton where he paid $100 to the lumber yard and paid the note for the trees with the $20. The wind is from the north but really nice weather, otherwise, no frost today.

Friday, the old Mr. Miller was buried at Neufeld's.

Saturday, December 6, 1884

I gave Brother Benjamin $250 to take along to McPherson to pay for the wood. He gave me a receipt. I had given him $30 to pay the note to Peter Warkentin and he gave me the note. I had to pay $3 interest.

December 7, 1884

The "articles" were read to the candidates for baptism on Sunday, December 7, 1884. Brother Penner from Brudertahl gave the introduction using Rom. 8, 1-11 as his text. The parents, David Jantzen, Krauses, Preacher Goertzen, and we all were at Benjamin Ratzlaffs in the afternoon. At the worship service in church in the evening, Brother Banman from Alexanderwohl and Brother Funk from Brudertahl gave talks.

December 8, 1884

It was nice weather. My hired man, Franz, took a vacation Monday. There was a worship service at Johann Dicks Tuesday; Brothers Funk, Penner and Banman had promised to be there, but they did not come and I gave a short talk on 2 Corinthians 12, verse 9. The Lord was with us and we give Him the praise and thanks. It was somewhat rainy and it had also rained a little in the night. Uncle Dulden stayed all night at our place. He has difficulty with his speech. Peter put a door on the corn bin in the evening and I helped Benjamin paper the walls.

December 10, 1884

There was an auction at Franz Neuman's Wednesday, 3 horses, 17 head of beef, hogs and other articles were sold. I bought a black gelding for $11.00 and another one for $20.00 to be paid by the 10th of October at 8% interest. It rained with some snow.

Part VIII in original

March 15, 1885

Sunday was Missionary Sunday and I preached on Galatians 4, verse 28 to the end of the chapter. This made a suitable introduction. Brother Unruh talked on _____, Brother Gaeddert on Psalm _____. Brother Goertz preached on John 6, verse 12 for father's birthday in the afternoon and also Brother Gaeddert on _____. On _____ I was at Brotzki where Brother Goertz and I held a worship service in the school. My text was from Genesis 45, verse 4, and Brother Goertz's from Gal. 4 verse 26.

March 31, 1885

Father and I went to get some gooseberry shrubs and set them out. Jacob Schmidt came for me. His mare had difficulty having her colt but everything went well. She had a brown male colt. David Schroeder borrowed 5 bushels of oats from me today.

April 19, 1885

I hired Peter Becker today, will pay him $10 a month. He planted the first potatoes. The 18th of April we planted trees at the church. Brother Unruh and I drove to Gaedderts Sunday, the 19th, to conduct a worship service. Brother Gaeddert made the opening remarks with "What does it profit a man if

he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" I preached on the passage from John 10, 12-16; Brother Unruh on "Jesus, you Son of David, have mercy on me, that I may see." Gaedderts drove to Daniel Martens in the afternoon for the engagement of their daughter, Katharina with Isaac Wiens. Brother Unruh and we went to Heinrich Franz. David Janzen, Jacob Martens and the young Johann Siemens were there also. It rained all day, not much wind, and it was warm. I gave Brother Gaeddert $15 and $2 for Enns.

April 20, 1885

We put in the posts for the pigpen. Peter plowed the garden. We had a heavy rain during the night so that the river flooded Wednesday. I caught some fish Thursday. J. Pauls visited us in the evening. It was nice Friday forenoon but cloudy in the afternoon and started to rain heavily in the evening from the north. We planted mulberry trees this week.

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April 24, 1885

I gave Jacob Schmidt $27.50. He was going to Burrton and send it to Topeka from there. The interest was 25¢. We are having nice weather.

April 26, 1885

An Evangelical preacher by the name of Schwartz was in our church. His sermon was on the text from John 10, verse 9. There was Sunday school in the afternoon.

May 3, 1886

Lengel started building the barn on May 3rd. He worked five days this week. The next week he again worked five days. I gave the little boy ten dollars each week. He started again on Monday, the 17th, but he was not there on Thursday and worked only four days. Then he came the 24th and worked five days of that week.

On May 6, Johann Burger started and worked three days and began on Monday and worked six days. I gave him $5 and $10 on Sunday the 15th. Then he started on Monday, the 17th, again and worked six days. He was not there on the 24th and 25th, so that he worked only four days, worked on the 31st and the 1st and 2nd of June.

Heinrich Schmidt started working May 10th at noon and worked four and one-half days that week and I paid him $10. He started again on Monday, the 17th, and worked five days that week, and returned on Monday, the 24th, and worked six days. He was not here Tuesday and Wednesday. He worked the 1st and 2nd of June. Peter Ratzlaff worked two and one-half days, Friday, the 7th of May, Saturday and Monday afternoon until lunch.

1887

February 27, 1887

My wife and I and the two smallest girls drove to Johann Ratzlaffs on Sunday evening. I preached there Sunday forenoon in church John 13, verse 30. I went to the devotional meetings in the church in the afternoon. My wife was at Unruhs for the afternoon lunch. I joined her there and after sunset we drove home.

March 3, 1887

I was at the auction at Brotzki. Everything was sold for cash and brought high prices.

March 4, 1887

I bought two colts from Brother Heinrich Thursday, one brown and one greyish, both for $50 apiece. The one I had had from Schroeder for several weeks cost $50. Saturday, the 5th, I bought a watch and chain for $12.50.

March 6, 1887

We drove to Gaedderts with Peter Ratzlaffs. My text for the forenoon was Isaiah 1, 18. The parents, Ratzlaffs, D. Buller, P. Buller and Johann Voth were all there in the afternoon.

March 7, 1887

We started to plow getting ready to sow oats. It was very warm.

March 8, 1887

We preachers were together at the grandparents, discussed various matters; Marten's money which he is to hand in next Sunday; about the church the Galesians (?) were building. Brother Unruh and I were given the responsibility to visit Jacob Willems. We also discussed the Pennsylvania money problem. Then we talked about keeping up the worship services at Enns' like we have done before.

March 9, 1887

I plowed, it was windy but no frost. Gerhard Becker took his old mare to be bred by the big stallion. Wednesday I pruned the grapes. We had our last worship service at our place this evening. Brother Gaeddert and Brother Unruh were there. Brother Unruh preached on _____, Brother Gaeddert on Rom. 8, 34.

March 10, 1887 - Thursday

Franz plowed and finished on Friday and on Saturday, the 12th, Franz and Johann harrowed.

March 13, 1887 - Sunday

Brother Unruh preached on Jonah 1, verse 8, "What is your trade and from where are you?" I preached on --- 2, verse 5, and Brother Gaeddert added a few words on what had already been said. After the meeting was over Brother Jantzen was given the money for Martens. It was decided that the next brotherhood meeting would not be held. Brother Unruh and we drove to Cornelius Voths for dinner. Unruhs and we drove to Jacob Peters in the afternoon and stopped at Johann Friesens. Unruhs, Benjamin Ratzlaffs and Heinrich Ratzlaffs visited at our place in the evening.

March 14, 1887 - Monday

I sowed oats. Franz and his wife drove to Burrton with Heinrich Ratzlaffs and stayed all day. Heinrich Kliewer took his mare to the grey stallion for the second time to be bred.

March 15, 1887 - Tuesday

Benjamin Ratzlaff, Peter Ratzlaff, John Dyck and I drove to Halstead to underwrite two notes for Benjamin Ratzlaff, together for $600. In the evening we were at Jake Schmidts.

March 16, 1887 - Wednesday

I sowed the last oats today, altogether 21 bushels on ten acres. Franz and his wife hauled hay and straw to their place. Jacob Schmidt left his young mare with the grey stallion in the morning. P. Ratzlaff visited us in the evening. The wind was northerly all day but it was not cold.

March 17, 1887 - Thursday

We made the ditch around the corral for the cows and I pruned some grape vines. Gaedderts and Heinrich Schmidts were at the parents place regarding the Pennsylvania money. It was a very nice day. Jacob Ediger came to our place to look at the stallion.

March 18, 1887 - Friday

Franz hauled manure on the garden and I pruned the grapes. Johann Ratzlaffs visited P. Ratzlaffs.

March 20, 1887 - Sunday

My wife and I drove to _____School where Brother Unruh and I held a worship service. My text was Genesis 19, verse 20 and Brother Unruh preached on Genesis 24, verse 23. Franz was sick in bed Monday, Tuesday, until Wednesday. We started to plow the corn ground on Wednesday. Saturday my wife and I drove to Newton. Brother Gaeddert was there also. On Sunday we both conducted a worship service in Newton in the church there. My text was Luke 15, 12, and Brother Gaeddert's text was Galatians 4, verse 21-31. We had dinner at Regiers. Brother Toews was there also. Brother Gaeddert was at Abraham Sudermans. We went there in the afternoon. For the evening we all were at Klassens and for the night at Regiers. For dinner Monday we were at Abr. Nickels. We had our wagon repaired at Krehbiels which cost us $1.50. At 5 o'clock we drove home. We stopped at Heinrich Kliewers that evening. His wife was very sick, but she improved. I got my fig trees that had been shipped from California from Heinrich Beckers Tuesday. They cost $2.62 per dozen. I pruned some trees in the afternoon of the 30th.

March 31, 1887 - Thursday

I drove for Heinrich Kliewer to take his wife to Dr. North and took her back again. He had to pay $4.00. I also bought some eggs from the black chickens for hatching.

April 1, 1887 - Friday

I repaired some pieces of harness. Johann Pauls came to visit us in the evening.

April 2, 1887 - Saturday

A very beautiful warm day, Franz hauled hay and straw into the barn for the cattle, and I did more repair work on the harness. We drove to Heinrich Kliewers in the evening. Jacob Gaedderts, Uncle Kliewers, Peter Ratzlaffs were also there. They had to call the doctor to Kliewers again. An American who wanted to do some trading came to us. He wanted to trade some steers for a young mare and he came to look her over.

April 3, 1887 - Sunday

My wife and I drove to Johann Ratzlaffs. I preached in their church on the text from Hebrew 2, verse 5. There was a violent storm which lasted from the forenoon to the evening. Johann Ratzlaffs and we visited Richerts in the evening.

April 4, 1887 - Monday

We stopped at Wedels and left for home in the afternoon, but stopped in Moundridge on the way. We bought clothes, hats (or caps) and shoes for the boys and also shoes for myself. Altogether it cost $15.25 which we borrowed for one month. Johann Toews was at our place to figure the taxes, also Peter Schmidt, B. Reichtzleder (spelling not too clear), father of P. Reichtzleder. He left his black mare here.

April 5, 1887 - Tuesday

We preachers, all except Brothers Heidebrecht and Ratzlaff, were together at Gaedderts. Our first discussion was about the money we had collected for him. He regretted that he had not received it himself right away. It had been given to Brother Janzen at Lehigh to give to Marten when he needed it the most. Brother Gaeddert told us that the town of Newton had offered to pay $50,000 towards the building for a school if the Mennonites would match this with a bond or guarantee of also $50,000. It was brought up that we had not paid the amount we had promised this spring for the Indian boys and we still owed this.

Brother Unruh and I gave a report that we had been at Jacob Willems. We talked about the accusations that ----- is making against us. Then we also talked to Aaron Enns. There was a strong wind during the entire day, which blew up a lot of dust. I visited Johann Dyck.

Brother Unruh and I drove to Ewerts and the Johannestahl congregation in the afternoon. We drove only to Lehigh and stayed at Johann Sudermans. In the morning we drove to the Johannestahl Church and Brother Goertz was also there. Brother Unruh and I held a worship service in the forenoon and Brother Goertz in the afternoon. I preached on Hebrews 12, verse 2, and Brother Unruh on the Easter Story. We all drove to Nickels for dinner. Brother Unruh and I drove to Ewerts in the afternoon. They were both sick. We stayed there until evening and then went on to Penners for the night.

The second holiday Brother Unruh, Brother Goertz and I held a worship service in Ewert's church. My text was Isaiah 1, verse 18, and 3, verses 1-11; Brother Goertz on John 21, verses 15, 16, and 17. For dinner we were all at Ewerts. Brother Unruh and I drove to Abraham Janzens in the afternoon, but they were not at home. We drove on to Preacher Janzens for the night. There was a good rain at night. It had been very dry all fall and winter and even this spring. There had been a great deal of wind which had blown much soil into the hedges.

The last holiday, Brother Unruh, Brother Klassen from Newton, and I conducted services in the Alexanderwohl Church. I preached on Luke 15, verse 2; Brother Klassen on John 21, verses 15, 16, and 17. I was at Aunt Wedel's house for dinner. Then in the afternoon we drove to Mrs. Buller who was sick. Brother Goertz had a worship service and I spoke a few words on John 14, verse 2. We then left for home. Here we found everyone well for which we thank the Lord.

April 14, 1887

W. C. Pierce brought his grey mare to the stallion, and we planted potatoes all day.

April 15, 1887

W. C. Pierce and I did some trading. I gave him six steers and two mares bred by the large stallion and $20 after one year, and he gave me a brown two-year old mare.

April 17, 1887 - Sunday

It rained almost all day Sunday. My wife and I drove to church, but no one was there. We went on to Gerhard Wedels for dinner.

April 18, 1887 - Monday

On Monday we drove to Karl Wedels for their auction. I bought a hand plow for $10 to be paid in the fall.

April 21 & 22, 1887 - Thursday and Friday

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I planted 20 acres of corn. It rained all day Friday with a cold wind. Brother Gaeddert was here Saturday. Father left his young brown mare with the big stallion on Saturday.

My wife and I drove to Gaedderts Sunday for the worship service. I preached on Hebrew 4, verse 9. There was a matter to be taken up so we had a brotherhood meeting to discuss about our preparatory school. It was quite cool all day.

W. C. Pierce left his old brown mare with the big stallion Monday and again on Tuesday, the 26th. I hauled 51 bushels of wheat to Moundridge for which I was paid 45¢ per bushel. Johann Ratzlaffs and Peter Wedels were at our house when I came home. They had brought their cattle to Peter Ratzlaffs pasture. Wedel brought the three-year old brown mare that I had bought from him before the holidays, for which I had paid him $100 with one year's time to pay. Ratzlaff and Wedel drove home that day.

April 27, 1887 - Wednesday

On Wednesday we butchered a hog.

April 28, 1887 - Thursday

Uncle Gaeddert, brother-in-law Dyck, father and I drove to Halstead to the conference to confer about our preparatory school. I cleaned up the garden plot on Friday.

May 1, 1887 - Sunday

We attended (name not clear) funeral, who had died Friday. The funeral service was held in the Sparta school house and was conducted by Brother Unruh, who preached on Matthew 7, verses 24-27.

May 2, 1887 - Monday

I planted corn.

May 3, 1887 - Tuesday

We preachers had a meeting at Uncle Balzer's.

May 4, 1887 - Wednesday

I planted corn on the 20 acres adjoining Becker's.

May 5, 1887 - Thursday

We plowed father's land using two plows. It was quite warm and I rode to Baergen's in the evening and bought a sow with six small pigs for $10 and another one for $9. When I came home Peter Ratzlaff was there. Gerhard Becker, father and Benjamin came later to discuss the payment Brother Benjamin had to make on the bank note.

May 6, 1887 - Friday

Gerhard Becker, Banjamin Ratzlaff, Peter Ratzlaff and I drove to Newton. We borrowed $170 in Lehman's bank with interest to be paid November 1. With this we made the payment due on Benjamin Ratzlaff's bank note. It was rather warm today. We plowed with two plows and harrowed in the afternoon.

May 7, 1887 - Saturday

We worked the land on father's place. I watered the grape vines and got the sow and six little pigs from Gerhard Baergen in the evening. It was quite windy all day.

May 8, 1887 - Sunday

Brother Gaeddert and I preached in church. Brother Gaeddert preached on the experiences of Israel in the wilderness and I on Luke 18, verses 1-8. The parents and we drove to Gerhard Beckers in the afternoon. It was quite warm.

May 9, 1887 - Monday

I cleaned the corn and Franz chopped some hedge trees. It was nice and warm.

May 10, 1887 - Tuesday

I cultivated the corn in the morning. In the afternoon I attended the brotherhood meeting and we talked about the school that is to be built in Newton, and about Sunday School. It was decided to have Sunday School every fourth Sunday in the church before the regular Sunday worship service.

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It was decided to keep up the garden by the church during this summer. A collection is to be held, it was decided; and the money from this collection sent to the Galisians (?) that had settled in the west part of Kansas to help them build their church. The preparatory service was held the Sunday after Pentecost and the Holy Communion celebration the following Sunday. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Brother Unruh.

May 11, 1887 - Wednesday

Father, Brother Gaeddert and I drove to Newton regarding the matter of Bethel College and returned the same day. Brother Gaeddert stayed here for the night. Peter Ratzlaff planted corn for me and Franz was to do some work for him in return. The cow from Schroeder had a calf this morning, a black bull calf with a white forehead.

May 12, 1887 - Thursday

I planted the last corn on father's land. It was dry and windy.

May 13, 1887 - Friday

I hauled a load of wheat to Halstead and received 51¢ a bushel. I had the hoops of the wheels of the large wagon tightened which cost 50¢ per wheel. I paid Linn the interest for Peter Schmidt, $22.65, and sent $27.65 to Topeka for myself. On the way home I stopped at Heinrich Becker and bought a bred sow for $9.00. We had a good rain in the evening, large hail started to fall at first, but only a little fell with no wind.

May 14, 1887 - Saturday.

I bought a sow from Jacob Schmidt for $9.00. Today I cultivated potatoes and Johann harrowed the corn on father's land. I went to Jacob Schmidts in the evening to help with his sow. She could not farrow. It had been a very nice day with no wind.

May 15, 1887 - Sunday

We called the entire congregation together because Missionary H. R. Voth had promised to be here but he never came. I opened the meeting by reading Psalm 139 and gave the opening prayer. Brother Unruh preached on Romans 5, verses 8, 9, 10. Brother Gaeddert on Romans 8, verses 31-34, Brother Goertz preached on Matthew 11, verses 25-26. Johann Dycks, Peter Schmidts, Heinrich Ratzlaffs and we visited the parents in the afternoon. Brother-in-law Jacob Schmidt got me to help with his sow.

May 16, 1887 - Monday

Gaedderts were here to visit and stayed until evening. It was a nice day, somewhat cool in the afternoon.

May 17, 1887 - Tuesday

I cultivated corn all day. Franz helped Peter Ratzlaff all day with his corn, his wife helped only until noon. It was cool all day, especially in the forenoon.

May 18, 1887 - Wednesday

I cultivated corn all day, broke up and hauled cornstalks in the afternoon. Franz plowed all day.

May 19, 1887 - Thursday

Ascension Day, Brother Balzer and Brother Kliewer preached. They had both decided on this day, Brother Kliewer preached on the epistles and Brother Balzer on the gospels. In the afternoon we were guests at Jacob Beckers.

May 20, 1887 - Friday

I cleaned and worked with the corn all day. Franz plowed. It was a nice day, but somewhat windy.

May 21, 1887 - Saturday

I cleaned corn all day and Franz plowed. It rained during the night, it was a nice day.

May 22, 1887 - Sunday

We went to church, Brother Flaming and Brother Heidebrecht preached. David Janzens visited us in the afternoon. We had a good rain Sunday night.

May 23, 1887 - Monday

We prepared the land for corn. It was a very nice day.

May 24, 1887 - Tuesday

I planted cabbage for sauerkraut in the forenoon and planted corn in the afternoon.

May 25, 1887 - Wednesday

I cleaned corn and Franz worked on the road. Peter Ratzlaff drove to Burrton and I gave him $6 to pay on the $15 note in the bank.

May 26, 1887 - Thursday

Franz cultivated corn all day and I watered the cabbage in the forenoon and worked on the road in the afternoon. The sow from Baergen's farrowed today, had nine little pigs.

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May 27, 1887 - Friday

Franz cleaned corn all day. I drove to Bernhard Gerdeler in the forenoon and had one wheel of the cultivator repaired and also several other things that needed to be repaired, everything together cost 65¢. I cleaned up the garden plot in the afternoon. Father came from Moundridge and told us that half of the town had burned down the night before. It had been a nice warm day. We got the wire from Burrton which I had bought from the lumber company to be paid the first of November. It cost $15.20 without interest. This had all been paid.

May 28, 1887 - Saturday

Franz cultivated corn all day and I worked on the garden. Father bought a bucket and several other things from Burrton which cost $1.05. I was at Peter Dycks and Buhler today. I helped father castrate bull calves. It had been a nice day.

May 29, 1887 - First Holiday - Sunday

Brother Kliewer and Brother Gaeddert preached. Brother Kliewer talked on the text for the occasion and Brother Gaeddert on Hebrew 9, verses 16-17. Heinrich Nickels and we were at the parents in the afternoon.

May 30, 1887 - Second Holiday - Monday

I preached on _____ 16, verses 14-20. We visited D. Unruhs in the afternoon.

May 31, 1887 - Last Holiday - Tuesday

I preached on John 15, verses 26 and 27 and Corinthians 16, verses 1-4. We preachers had a meeting at Brother P. Ratzlaff in the afternoon to talk about some matters. One was that Brother Goertz should talk to Brother Hiebert that they were not doing anything with the money Hiebert had from D. Block from Alexanderwohl. We discussed that Brother Heidebrecht should go to D. Enns and talk to him about what he and Brother Balzer discussed. Then we talked about paying off the money from Pennsylvania as soon as possible. It was decided to have the next meeting with Brother Goertz. We received many blessings during the Holy Days. When we came home in the evening, the worker whom I had hired was already there. His wages will be $12 for 26 days of work.

June 1, 1887 - Wednesday

The old man Jacob started working for us today. He and Franz cleaned the corn all day and also planted watermelon. Anna Pauls visited us in the afternoon. Gaedderts visited B. Ratzlaffs in the afternoon. The young heifer had her calf today. She had a black calf.

June 2, 1887 - Thursday

We cultivated corn with two cultivators. Unruhs came in the evening and together we went to B. Ratzlaffs to settle our business.

June 3, 1887 - Friday

Johann Pauls, B. Ratzlaff and P. Ratzlaff and father were here about all the confusion and disorder that the worker had caused at our place. I also settled my account with J. Pauls and still owe him $62.70 and will pay him half of this now. We had a good rain today, both in the afternoon and afternoon. Had 20 bushels of wheat ground at Klassen's mill. It was 11 o'clock when I finally came home.

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June 4, 1887 - Saturday

Gaedderts came to our place and Brother Gaeddert and I went to Klaus Suderman's auction in the forenoon. We went to P. Ratzlaffs in the afternoon. J. Franzen came there and he mentioned that they would like to join our church. The sow from Jacob Schmidt farrowed. She had five pigs but two died and the sow also died. It rained considerably in some places.

June 5, 1887 - Sunday

We had Sunday School for the first time this year in church. Brother Gaeddert and I preached, I on Luke "Come, everything is prepared," and Brother Gaeddert on _____. (I received $5.50 from W. Janzen and drove to G. Baergen and paid him the $5.) Brother Balzer gave the closing prayer. The parents and we were at Jacob Schmidts in the afternoon. She was sick in bed.

June 6, 1887 - Monday

Franz and Jacob cultivated corn in the forenoon. Jacob worked on the road in the afternoon. Franz cultivated corn and I cut down some hedge. Lots of wind. Anna Pauls stayed with us from 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon until Saturday about the same time, when the children drove her home.

June 7, 1887 - Tuesday

It rained before dinner. Franz and Jacob cultivated corn after dinner and I went to the Brotherhood meeting. It was decided that Brother Dyck, father and I should talk over some matters with Johann Toews because he wants to join our church, and we had some other things to consider. The sow from H. Becker farrowed in the evening. The five pigs lived.

June 8, 1887 - Wednesday

Franz cultivated corn and Jacob worked on the road. I trimmed the hedge. There was a trial in Halstead today. It had been a nice day.

June 9, 1887 - Thursday

It rained quite a bit during the day. Pulled weeds in the corn field in the forenoon and afternoon until lunch and also after lunch, until it started raining again towards evening. It was warm and sultry.

June 10, 1887 - Friday

Had a good rain last night. The entire family hoed weeds in the corn field all day. Johann took the steers to Gaedderts and brought back some corn that Mr. Gaeddert had lent me. I hauled two sows to Burrton in the afternoon. They weighed 600 lbs and I got $4 per hundred, $24 altogether. Paid the note in the bank, $11.15; and bought $4 worth of sugar to prepare the wine, got 52 pounds for $1.00. It rained considerably again in the evening. I paid 30¢ for a hat for Jacob. He had given me 25¢.

June 11, 1887 - Saturday

My family hoed weeds in the cornfield, it rained in the forenoon. Father, Johann Dyck and I drove to John Toews but he had gone to Halstead. We went again in the evening to discuss church affairs with him. In the afternoon I drove to Peter Balzers and he was not at home either. On the way I stopped at Gerhard Baergens and gave him $11.00. When we came home from Toews, Peter Schmidt was here. We gathered mulberries and water in the keg for the wine.

June 12, 1887 - Sunday

We had communion in church. For the introduction Brother Kliewer read a passage from Hebrews and said a prayer. Brother Heidebrecht preached on the passage from Revelations "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb, etc." Brother Gaeddert preached on Psalm 93 and Brother Flaming gave the prayer. After communion and foot washing, he also gave the closing prayer. Johann Dycks visited us in the afternoon. It rained a little in the morning, otherwise it was a nice day.

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June 13, 1887 - Monday

Franz and Jacob cultivated and hoed corn on father's land all day and I cleaned up the grape vines and hoed the cabbage patch in the afternoon. It was rather a warm day.

June 14, 1887 - Tuesday

Franz and Jacob worked with the corn all day, it was quite a warm day, but nice and cool in the evening.

June 15, 1887 - Wednesday

Cultivated corn. We had pleasant weather all day.

June 16, 1887 - Thursday

I cultivated corn and cleaned the garden in the afternoon. It was rather windy all day. In the forenoon I chopped down some hedge trees.

June 17, 1887 - Friday

I hauled some wheat to Halstead and took Heinrich and Johann along. For 51 bushels and 50 lbs at 75¢ a bushel, I got $38.85. I had some repair work done on the harness which cost 50¢. Then for father, I bought a container for screws and bolts, paid $12.63.

June 18, 1887 - Saturday

Franz and Jacob cultivated corn in the forenoon. Jacob went to Moundridge in the afternoon and did not work. I went to O.K. School House at five because of some concerns about the railroad. I gave Jacob $2.00, Baergens $3.00 and _____ $10.00.

June 19, 1887 - Sunday

I had to preach in Enns' school house and the parents went with us. We were at Jacob Wiens for dinner. In the afternoon we were at Jacob Abrahams where we celebrated Holy Communion. My text in the forenoon was on Jer. 14, verse 5. Brother Goertz was already preaching when we arrived in the morning. We had to drive very slowly because of the heat between the hedgerows.

June 20, 1887 - Monday

I cultivated corn all day and the mower was assembled in the afternoon. It was quite warm but the wind turned to the north and by evening it became much cooler.

June 21, 1887 - Tuesday

We hoed in the cornfield. I hauled wheat to Halstead. I was paid 75¢ a bushel and received $41.35. Bought some wood for Heidebrechts which cost $4.85. Also paid $2.25 which I still owed from before. Jacob Pauls came in the evening and I paid him the $15 that I still owed him for Anna Pauls.

June 22, 1887 - Wednesday

I worked on the mower and repaired it and Franz and Jacob worked in the cornfield. Gaedderts came to visit us in the afternoon and while we were eating dinner Uncle Ewert's hired man came to tell us that Uncle Ewert had died Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. It had been a warm day.

June 23, 1887 - Thursday

Franz cultivated the last corn in the field next to Beckers. Jacob cultivated our corn on father's land for the second time. He spent all day on this work. I started cutting wheat at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was warm and dry.

June 24, 1887 - Friday

We could not cut wheat because it rained a little.

June 25, 1887 - Saturday

We cut wheat all day.

June 26, 1887 - Sunday

Brother Balzer and Brother Unruh preached in the church. The parents, Johann Dycks and we drove to Jacob Regiers. Johann Sudermans were guests there. Towards evening we drove to Johann Toews. Johann Sudermans came there also and Suderman and Toews reconciled their differences they had had with each other. The Lord gave his blessing to this.

June 27, 1887 - Monday

We cut wheat all day and Jacob cultivated corn on father's land. It was a nice day.

June 28, 1887 - Tuesday

We cut wheat all day and finished the harvest. The wedding of Johann Nickel and Susanna Enns took place at D. Enns' this afternoon. Nickel belongs to the Buhler church and Susanna to our church, but she changed her membership to the Buhler church.

June 29, 1887 - Wednesday

I cut wheat for David Schroeder and started cutting for Brother Heinrich Ratzlaff toward evening. Jacob cultivated corn on father's land. Franz, his wife and the children hoed weeds in the cornfield.

June 30, 1887 - Thursday

We cut wheat on Heinrich's place. We could not cut inthe afternoon until lunch because it rained. We got together with the school board in the school in the afternoon. They had decided to have English school for six months.

July 1, 1887 - Friday

It was too damp in the morning to cut wheat because it had rained a little the night before, but we could cut all afternoon. Jacob cultivated corn on our land and mowed some hay in the afternoon.

July 2, 1887 - Saturday

We cut wheat at Brother Heinrich's until noon. We cut some of our oats in the afternoon. We had a good rain in the evening for which we thank the Lord. Jacob left in the afternoon since he had finished his work. We paid him all the wages he had coming to him.

July 3, 1887, Sunday

We were all together in church. Brother Kliewer and Brother Goertz gave the sermons. The funeral of Heinrich Janzen's little four-months old daughter, Maria, who had died Friday evening, was held in their home in the afternoon. I gave the funeral sermon on the text from Revelations 7, verse 17 "And God shall wipe away all tears, etc."

July 4, 1887 - Monday

We cut oats until lunch time.

July 5, 1887 - Tuesday

We cut oats for Heinrich R. until lunch time. It rained heavily towards evening for a short while. It had been very warm today.

July 6, 1887 - Wednesday

It rained quite a bit in the night, but was very nice during the day. I made a headerbox (hayrack). We got together at the O.K. School about school matters. We hired Franz Adrian at $35 a month. He is to teach German School for three months beginning September 1st. D. Enns got his mare on Saturday, July 2.

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July 7, 1887 = Thursday

Worked on the farm implements and Lengel helped me until noon. Franz cultivated corn on the six-acre plot. It was quite warm.

July 8, 1887 - Friday

We started to gather up the wheat. We did five loads.

July 9, 1887 - Saturday

We had a very good rain at night so that we could not gather up the wheat. Brother Gaeddert was here with his mare and left her here.

July 10, 1887 - Sunday

I preached in the (spelling not clear) school. Elder Klassen, who was also present, preached a rather long introductory sermon on 1 Peter 2. I preached on Luke 16, verse 2. Brother Goertz gave the closing prayer. Goertz' and we were at the old H einrich Pauls for dinner. I drove to the Brotherhood meeting and my wife drove to Heinrich Unruhs. Brother Regier

July 10, 1887 - Sunday - Continued

and Brother Dyck were delegated to tell Johann Toews that he would be permitted to join our congregation. We also talked about missions. It was decided to tell the Widow Epp she could join our congregation. Brother Sperling and Brother Janzen were chosen to give her this message.

July 11, 1887 - Monday

We gathered up ten loads of wheat which took all day. My wife and Mrs. Benjamin Ratzlaff drove to P. Ratzlaffs who is reported to be very sick.

July 12, 1887 - Tuesday

We gathered ten loads of wheat and raked the oats we had cut Monday. A rather warm day. A calf was born dead yesterday.

July 13, 1887 - Wednesday

We gathered up wheat all day, had eleven loads.

July 14, 1887 - Thursday

We gathered wheat all day. It was quite warm.

July 15, 1887 - Friday

We hauled together five and one-half loads of oats.

July 16, 1887 - Saturday

I plowed in the afternoon and Franz and Johann cleaned up the garden.

July 17, 1887 - Sunday

We drove to Gaedderts with Peter Ratzlaffs and D. Unruhs were there also. Brother Gaeddert and Brother Unruh preached and I gave the closing prayer. We stayed for the afternoon and D. Enns and Abr. Martens came too. The weather was quite warm.

July 18, 1887 - Monday

Franz and I did some plowing in the forenoon, also in the afternoon until evening. The corn is suffering because of the lack of rain. Very few ears have set on.

July 19, 1887 - Tuesday

Franz and I plowed all day. The wind turned north yesterday and is from the north today.

July 20, 1887 - Wednesday

I drove to Halstead with some May wheat for which I got 66¢ a bushel. They had a good rain in Halstead the past night. Franz plowed all day.

July 21, 1887 - Thursday

Franz plowed in the forenoon. Johann put up hay. My wife and I attended the funeral of Wiens' ten-year old son who had been ill for seven years. Uncle Balzer conducted the funeral service and the boy was buried in our cemetery.

July 22, 1887 - Friday

Peter Ratzlaff, Johann Pauls, and I drove to McPherson. Johann did some mowing. Franz and Maria hauled hay. It was very dry, overcast and very warm.

July 23, 1887 - Saturday

Johann cut hay and Franz and Maria hauled it. I made a water trough for the cattle lot. Peter Ratzlaffs and we drove to Alexanderwohl to Johann Voths for a wedding of Cornelius Richert and Johann Voth's adopted daughter Susanna Voth.

July 24, 1887 - Sunday

Today was the wedding day. I held a worship service at Voths in the forenoon. In the afternoon Uncle Buller performed the wedding ceremony. I made the closing remarks on the text "We want to walk together." We all, Johann and Benjamin Ratzlaff, were at Uncle Richerts for the night.

July 25, 1887 - Monday

We drove home in the forenoon and found everything in good shape and everyone was well and we thank the Lord. We put up hay all day. Our mare had a foal in the evening, it was a mare colt. Johann Kliewers visited Heinrich Kliewers today.

July 30, 1887 - Saturday

We started threshing on Heinrich Kliewer's place.

August 1, 1887 - Monday

Threshed at Heinrich Kliewers until noon and started at Heinrich Beckers in the afternoon. Franz and Maria left us today. They had not worked since Thursday.

August 2, 1887 - Tuesday

Started threshing at Ewy's in the afternoon and worked there until lunch on Thursday. After lunch we started at Hinson's. It rained in the night so that we could not thresh until noon, but started again in the afternoon. Johann hauled the water. The old Jacob quit helping us on Thursday evening. We threshed for the older Hinson in the afternoon. Then we took the machine to the older Hinson's, ate lunch there and then after lunch we threshed for Johann Schmidt. Heinrich Ratzlaff worked for me. P. Nickel hauled hay for me Saturday afternoon.

August 8, 1887 - Monday

We threshed for Schmidt's until 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Then we went to the auction at Heinrich Kliewer's place. Towards evening we again did some threshing. On Tuesday, the 9th, we threshed mostly oats for P. Schmidt. It rained a little in the evening.

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July 10, 1888 - Wednesday

We threshed for Schmidts all day.

July 11, 1888 - Thursday

We threshed for Schmidts until 10 in the forenoon and then started at Franz Adrian's.

July 12, 1888 - Friday

Threshed for Adrian all day. The machine broke down, but P. Ratzlaff and R. Ratzlaff and D. Janzen drove to Gerbrandt's and had the repairs made. We finished everything late in the evening and moved everything to P. Ratzlaffs.

July 13, 1888 - Saturday

We started to thresh for P. Ratzlaff late the next morning.

July 14, 1888 - Sunday

Father and I and Brother Unruh drove to Nachtigals in the afternoon to make the visit we had promised. In the forenoon we were in the Lake School. Mrs. Nickel brought Peter home.

July 15, 1888 - Monday

We threshed for P. Ratzlaff all day.

July 16 and 17, 1888 - Tuesday and Wednesday

We threshed for P. Ratzlaff until 11 o'clock and then started at our place.

July 18, 1888 - Thursday

We threshed at our place all day. We had a good rain in the evening. The unruly mare died today from a punch the cow had given her in the side. Her colt was three weeks old.

July 19, 1888 - Friday

We did not thresh in the forenoon. We threshed from noon until lunch and finished. After lunch we threshed for the grandparents.

July 20, 1888 - Saturday

We threshed for the parents all day.

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July 21, 1888 - Sunday

Brother Richert, Brother Goertz and the young Wedel, who is studying in Halstead, and Missionary Voth from the Indian Territory, all from Alexanderwohl, were guests in our church today. Brother Goertz gave the opening prayer and read a Psalm. Then Brother Wedel preached on "and if I be lifted up I will draw all men to me." Brother Voth preached on Corinthians ___ and Brother Goertz from Halstead gave the closing prayer. We were all at Gaedderts in the afternoon and the guests stayed all night and drove home Monday. We had a good rain Sunday night.

July 22, 1888 - Monday

We did not do much threshing before noon, but still finished before lunch. We did some threshing for B. Ratzlaff before evening.

July 23, 1888 - Tuesday

We threshed for Ratzlaffs until dinner. Then the machine broke down. Brother P. Ratzlaff and J. Jantz drove to Gerbrandts and had it repaired.

July 24, 1888 - Wednesday

We threshed at the same place all day and finished late in the evening. It started raining in the night.

July 25, 1888 - Thursday

It rained all day. I had severe abdominal pains in the night.

July 26, 1888 - Friday

We plowed with two plows in the afternoon.

July 27, 1888 - Saturday

We plowed with only one plow because Meschke drove to Moundridge with one team. He returned late in the evening.

July 28, 1888 - Sunday

Morris, the parents and I drove to church. Brother Unruh and Brother Kliewer preached. P. and Jacob Schmidts visited us in the afternoon. Mrs. Epp was with Brother Unruhs who also visited us.

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May 12, - Saturday

Mrs. Buller who had been ill for eight years, five months and seventeen days was buried today. Brother Goertz and Brother Buller conducted the funeral service.

May 13, - Sunday

Franz Regier and Katherine Buller were married today by Brother Gaeddert who gave the wedding sermon on Psalm _____.

May 14, - Monday

Schwarz cultivated corn and I plowed the garden.

May 15 - Tuesday

I planted millet with the drill in the afternoon, mixed four bushels of millet with two bushels of oats according to weight, then I set the drill at two bushels for wheat and this sowed just the right amount.

May 16 -Wednesday

I bought 25 bushels of corn at 40¢ a bushel.

May 17 - Thursday

I cultivated the potatoes in the forenoon. Schwarz had to work on the road in the afternoon.

May 18 - Friday

The engagement of Anna Pauls and Franz Adrian was celebrated at Pauls. I gave the engagement address and had as my text 1 Corinthians 16, verse 13.

May 19 - Saturday

I cultivated corn and hoed the garden.

May 20 - Sunday - Pentecost

We were all together in church. Brother Goertz made a short introduction and I preached on the usual text from the Bible for the occasion. Brother _____ made the closing remarks on the text from John 20, verses 13-17. Brother Balzer gave the closing prayer.

May 21 - Monday

Brother Flaming preached on Acts 2, verses 29-42 and Brother Unruh on John 3, verses 16-21.

May 22 - Tuesday

Brother Heidebrecht made the opening remarks on "Simon Peter do you love me?" Then Brother Stucky preached on John 10, verse 16 and Brother Gaeddert on Acts 13, verse 46. Brother Unruh gave the closing prayer. It rained a little during the night. The parents, Jacob Schmidts, Peter Schmidts, Heinrich Ratzlaffs and we all visited Johann Dycks in the afternoon.

May 23 - Wednesday

The engaged couple, Franz Adrian and Anna Pauls, visited us in the afternoon. It started raining with hail and high winds so that many trees were broken and everything was hailed out in places at about 5'clock. By evening the storm had died down and it was calm.

May 24 - Thursday

The weather was very agreeable. I hauled manure on the grape vines.

May 25 - Friday

I planted some millet in the forenoon and in the afternoon Benjamin Ratzlaff and we drove to Gaedderts. Johann hauled two loads of rocks for Peter Schmidt. On the way back he brought the boar from Gaedderts that I had traded for a two-year old bull.

May 26 - Saturday

Schwarz cultivated corn in the forenoon. The boys and I worked in the garden. We had a good rain at noon, but it cleared off in the afternoon.

May 27 - Sunday

We had guests from Alexanderwohl, Uncle Buller and Uncle Balzer. They were here to fulfill their obligations as traveling ministers. Brother Buller's text was 1 John 5, verse 4; and Brother Balzer's was 2 Peter 1, verse 11. The wedding of Franz Adrian and Anna Pauls was celebrated at Johann Pauls in the afternoon. Brother Gaeddert conducted the wedding ceremony. He spoke on John 15, verse 5, and gave as their motto "He wants that all men shall be saved and become conscious and know the truth." It was a nice day.

May 28 - Monday

P. Ratzlaff and I drove to Gaedderts to look at his foal. Johann Ratzlaffs were here in the afternoon, they went to P. Ratzlaffs for the evening but came to our place for the night. It became very windy so that it was very dusty in places.

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May 29 - Tuesday

We preachers got together at Brother Kliewers, but Brothers Heidebrecht, Balzer and Goertz were not there. The first matter that was taken up was to report on how many of the assignments that had been given the last fourth Tuesday had been fulfilled; the concern that Heinrich Nickel had worked on a day of rest, Brother Gaeddert had seen and talked with Aaron Dycks about his differences with Brother Flaming. Brother Gaeddert had not talked with Heinrich Dalke, neither had Brother Unruh talked with Enns Brotzki. Brother Flaming was assigned to talk again with Dycks. The committee was asked to request the payment of the money from the East by the 74 immigrants. We discussed instruction for the youth and various other matters and decided to meet at Brother Flaming's at our next meeting.

May 30 - Wednesday

I washed the trees with lime. Schwarz cultivated corn and Johann ground oats. It was quite warm.

May 31 - Thursday

Brother Gaeddert and I drove to Moundridge to visit Dalke. Schwarz cultivated corn, Johann did some grinding.

June 1 - Friday

I cultivated the potatoes and Schwarz cultivated the corn. The children planted some watermelon.

June 2 - Saturday

Loganbill was at our place. Our horse hit him on his leg and arm, I had to drive him home.

June 3 - Sunday

Brother Kliewer and Brother Gaeddert preached in the church. Then there was a Brotherhood meeting to decide how to collect Otto's salary. The young people that had declared themselves as candidates for baptism were presented. The candidates for the school convention in Gnadenberg were to be chosen. We had a good rain Saturday night.

June 4 - Monday

Schwarz cultivated corn in the forenoon, but he stayed at home in the afternoon because his wife was sick. Peter Richerts were here for dinner. It was windy. I cultivated corn in the afternoon.

June 5 - Tuesday

Schwarz was not here all day. I cultivated the corn. It was very warm.

June 6 - Wednesday

Schwarz cultivated corn and I worked with the grape vines. It was quite warm and windy. Peter Ratzlaff worked on the north-south road past our place.

June 7 - Thursday

A baby son was born to us at 2 a.m. last night. His name is Abraham. Everything is in good shape. Jacob Heidebrecht began to work for us today. I hired him for seven months for $105. Jacob cultivated corn. Schwarz was not here today. Heinrich Wedels visited us in the evening. It was quite windy.

June 8 - Friday

It was very warm. At places they had good rain but we did not get any. The school teachers met at the Buhler church to discuss the concerns about the school matters.

June 9 - Saturday

It was quite warm, but no clouds. I worked in the cornfield, mulched the potatoes.

June 10 - Sunday

I preached on the text from Revelation Chapter 21, 1-8 on Sunday forenoon. The wedding of Jacob Richert and Anna Kliewer was held at Balzers in the afternoon. Brother Gaeddert preached the wedding sermon and the text was from Revelation 21, 1-5. It was quite warm and sunshiny.

June 11 - Monday

Schwarz cultivated corn and Jacob hauled manure. I sprayed the trees with lime. Father and I drove to Piers in the afternoon regarding horses and -- page torn.

June 12 - Tuesday

Schwarz was not here. Jacob cultivated corn and I and the boys finished hoeing the corn by hand. The old Peter Balzer was here in the afternoon. It was very windy with sunshine.

June 13 - Wednesday

Jacob cultivated corn. It was very dry and windy. Peter Kroeker stopped at Benjamin Ratzlaffs and returned again to his land. Schwarz did not come to work today.

June 14 - Thursday

Jacob cultivated the corn and the boys and I hoed weeds in the forenoon. It was cloudy in the forenoon but the sun shone in the afternoon and it was windy. Schwarz did not come to work.

June 15 - Friday

I borrowed 14 bushels of wheat from father and took it to Klassen's mill. Peter Ratzlaff, Heinrich Becker and I drove to McPherson in the afternoon to get some repairs for the mowing machine. I bought a sickle for $4, a piece of chain for 50¢ and three --- that fit over the sickle that cost 50¢. It was warm and dry.

June 16 - Saturday

Brother Heinrich Ratzlaff and I drove to Burrton. I bought a Plano mowing machine from Wilson, which, together with a tarpaulin to cover it, cost $153.

June 17 - Sunday

Brother Unruh and I drove to Enns Brozki and conducted a worship service there in the school. It was quite warm and dry today.

June 18 - Monday

I got the machine from Burrton and they assembled it in the afternoon. It was windy and warm.

June 19 - Tuesday

We tried out the new machine in the forenoon, but it did not work too well. We did some mowing with the old machine towards evening. Jacob cultivated corn. It rained in the evening. Jacob Dalkes from Nebraska stopped also at Peter Ratzlaffs and Jacob Beckers. It was rainy all day and rained heavily for four hours at night with strong winds. It was too wet to do any mowing.

June 20 - Wednesday

It was too wet to mow in the forenoon but we could do some in the afternoon. Heinrich hauled some shocks towards evening.

June 21 - Thursday

We mowed all day and with two machines in the afternoon. I cultivated the watermelons in the afternoon. Heinrich worked all day.

June 22 - Friday

It rained in the morning and it was after the afternoon lunch before we could do any cutting. Heinrich was not here today. Borrowed fourteen bushels of oats from Peter Schmidt. Brother Gaeddert brought his mares to our stallion this afternoon, but they both refused him.

June 23 - Saturday

We mowed all day with two machines and everything went quite well. Heinrich helped all day.

June 24 - Sunday

I drove with Brother Unruh to Gaedderts to conduct a worship service. My text was Matthew 20; 20-28 and Brother Unruh's text was Luke 6, verses 36-42. Brother Gaeddert gave the closing prayer. The first instruction class this summer for the young people was held in the afternoon. The class consisted of eleven members, three boys and eight girls. It was warm and sunny all day.

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June 25 - Monday

It rained in the morning, starting at 10 o'clock. Heinrich took off for the rest of the day. Ratzlaff from Burrton did some work on the machine.

June 26 - Tuesday

We started at Heinrich Ratzlaff's in the morning and made just one round when it started raining. After vesper we started mowing again. Heinrich used his horse, Jacob also helped but it was slow and heavy work.

June 27 - Wednesday

We mowed all day at Heinrich, using his horses. Jacob also helped there. The weather was good and we finished his wheat.

June 28 - Thursday

We cut the May wheat in the forenoon and cut on the 20-acre patch here at home in the afternoon and Henry and I went to the school where the board met to decide how long the school term should be. It was decided to have the school for six months. The tall Mr. Steid (?) was reelected on the school board. Jacob Becker will haul the coal and be paid $1.50 a ton. Heinrich helped again after vesper.

June 29 - Friday

We finished the wheat at noon and hauled together wheat for one stack. Heinrich helped all day with his horses, but used only one in the afternoon. The weather was good all day. We mowed two acres of wheat in the afternoon,

June 30 - Saturday

We hauled wheat together with two wagons all day. Cornelius Nickel and Schwarz helped all day. The weather was good.

July 1 - Sunday

Brother Goertz from Halstead was in our church. He preached about the centurion from Capernaum. They practiced the music that was to be sung at Newton at the laying of the cornerstone of the Bethel School. At five o'clock he went to the Buhler church for the same purpose.

July 2 - Monday

Cornelius Nickel and I hauled wheat and stacked it. Jacob and Schwarz cultivated corn.

July 3 - Tuesday

Jacob and Johann cultivated corn. Nickel and I stacked wheat.

July 4 - Wednesday

Jacob and Johann cultivated the corn and I hauled all of my May wheat together.

July 5 - Thursday

Jacob and I stacked wheat.

July 6 - Friday

Jacob and I stacked wheat and Johann cut oats.

July 7 - Saturday

Jacob and I stacked wheat and Johann raked wheat.

July 8 - Sunday

I held a worship service in the Locke school. My text was Daniel 6, verse 20. I was at Heinrich Janzens for dinner. In the afternoon there was instruction for the young people in church. Missionary Heinrich Voth was ordained as elder this Sunday. Christian Krehbiel performed the ordination ceremony. It rained a little in the evening.

July 9 - Monday

A good gentle rain fell last night. The Brotherhood meeting took place in the afternoon to discuss the installation of Johann Kliewer as a missionary. It was decided to accept Sister Heinrich Janzen, who had backslid, into the church again next Sunday as a fallen sister. It was discussed that Brother Gaeddert and Brother Heidebrecht should talk with Bernhard Warkentin and Elder Toews whether the two could not become reconciled, (the rest of this page is somewhat tattered, but guessing it may be as follows:) to call to their attention that they should make an exception and should be made aware that this is again God's Word.

July 10 - Tuesday

Peter Ratzlaff and I drove to Burrton. Jacob worked with the potatoes.

July 11 - Wednesday

I did some repair work on the door. Brother Gaeddert brought his chestnut mare in the afternoon and left her with the stallion. Jacob worked in the garden until vesper and after that he shocked oats. It was quite warm.

July 12 - Thursday

Daniel, Jacob and I stacked wheat. Johann mowed oats for Heinrich Ratzlaff. It was quite warm.

July 13 - Friday

Jacob and I stacked wheat and got it all finished. Johann mowed the last of the oats for Heinrich Ratzlaff and finished in the middle of the forenoon. He mowed oats at our place in the afternoon. The following night it rained heavily.

July 14 - Saturday

We finished mowing the rest of our oats. It was quite warm.

July 15 - Sunday

Sister Heinrich Janzen was reinstated into the church as a fallen sister. I preached very earnestly on the subject, "He accepts sinners," after I had read the entire 15th chapter of Luke. Brother Gaeddert's text was Matthew 1, verse 21. Johann Duerkson, Peter Ratzlaff, the older Duerkson, Peter Flaming, the older Flaming, Benjamin Ratzlaff were guests at our place in the afternoon. After vesper the parents, Peter and Jacob Schmidts also came to our place, also Heinrich Janzens. It was very warm and we had a good rain at night.

July 16 - Monday

Jacob and the boys hoed weeds out of the corn. They mowed the oats, that we had sowed on father's place in the afternoon.

July 17 - Tuesday

We mowed oats all day. It was wet and cloudy until the middle of the afternoon.

July 18 - Wednesday

No notation.

March 1889

March 7 - Thursday

David Gaeddert and Agatha Regier were married on this day. I preached the wedding sermon on Hosea 2, verses 18 and 19.

March 8 - Friday

I drove to Halstead about buying some land, also inquired about buying seed oats. There was a northerly wind and it was quite cool all day. I also sowed the ten acres of oats today. I had Schwarz work for me yesterday and today. He earned $10 in March. Last week he worked one day.

March 9 - Saturday

We had to help get things ready at Peter Ratzlaff's for his wedding to the widow Harder. It was somewhat cool.

March 10 - Sunday

We were at the wedding at Peter Ratzlaffs. Brother Gaeddert preached the wedding sermon. The weather was good. The older Peter Ratzlaffs spent the night at our place.

March 11 - Monday

We were at Ratzlaffs again. Johann Ratzlaff and Heinrich Richerts left for home in the afternoon. The weather was still nice, but it was windy.

March 12 - Tuesday

There was an engagement ceremony at Martin Friesens of their daughter Margareta and Jacob Siemens. Uncle Buller gave the engagement talk and had as his text, Collesians 3, 1-12. After the meal, Uncle Klassen gave a long, long talk. It was nice weather but overcast all day. I hired Bernhard Becker to work for me for a month for $5.00.

March 13 - Wednesday

I drove to get some oats and bought 60 bushels for 19¢ a bushel. It was somewhat windy today.

March 14 - Thursday

I started to sow oats on father's land and sowed 12 bushels. There was a very strong wind which made the sowing difficult because of the dust.

March 15 - Friday

We sowed 12½ bushels. It was quite cold.

March 16 - Saturday

Finished sowing oats on father's land, sowed 12½ bushels again.

March 17 - Sunday

We attended church and I preached on the temptation of Jesus. It rained considerably during the night. Johann Dycks and the parents visited us in the afternoon.

March 18 - Monday

It rained. The boys cleaned the granary.

March 19 - Tuesday

Father and I drove to Hutchinson with eggs and pigeons. We had two dozen pigeons and 50½ dozen eggs. We got $1.60 for the two dozen pigeons and 12½¢ a dozen for the eggs. Altogether, $7.90.

March 20 - Wednesday

The weather was nice. We delivered milk and butter to Friesens in the forenoon.

March 21 - Thursday

There was a wedding at Friesens. I drove with Brother Benjamin to see an American who wanted to trade horses for some cattle but he was not at home. In the afternoon we attended the wedding.

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March 22 - Friday

It rained in the evening and at night. The boys hauled manure.

March 23 - Saturday

I drove to Gerhard Becker's in the forenoon and worked in the garden in the afternoon.

March 24 - Sunday

I preached at Gaedderts. My text was on the destruction of Sodom, Lot's rescue and Abraham's intercession. The Heinrich Ratzlaffs from Steinfeld were our guests in the afternoon.

March 25 - Monday

I worked in the garden and pruned the grape vines. Benjamin Unruhs and we drove to visit David Unruhs in the afternoon. The weather was nice.

March 26 - Tuesday

We drove to Hamburg (spelling is not clear) with eggs in the forenoon. We had 35 dozen for which we got 9¢ a dozen which amounted to $3.15. Brothers Gaeddert, Heidebrecht, Enns and Heinrich Schmidt were all together at the parent's place to discuss the money that had been borrowed from the folks in the East. It was quite warm.

March 27 - Wednesday

I planted the cherry trees and gooseberry bushes. It was quite warm.

March 28 - Thursday

Benjamin Ratzlaff, father and I drove to Alexanderwohl and stayed at Uncle Peter Richerts for the night. Then we were at Peter Balzers the next forenoon for the examination which lasted until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. We got our daughter Maria, who had attended school there for four months, for which we had to pay $35.25. We left for home at 4 o'clock and arrived home safely.

March 29 - Friday

I planted cherry trees and gooseberry bushes. The weather was good.

March 30 - Saturday

I pruned the grape vines. We had nice warm weather, it rained hard in the evening. It was a good rain and we thank the Lord for it.

March 31 - Sunday

It was clear and nice weather. We visited the parents for a while in the afternoon and then Benjamin Ratzlaffs and then Peter Ratzlaffs.

April 1 - Monday

I pruned grape vines. David Unruhs visited Benjamin Ratzlaffs before dinner and left his brown mare with our stallion.

April 2 - Tuesday

We preachers got together at Peter Goertzens. It was a very nice day. Father, Johann Dycks and we drove together.

April 3 - Wednesday

I worked with the pear and apple trees before noon and father and I drove to Jacob Siemens in the afternoon. I bought two bushels of potatoes at 70¢ a bushel. It was cool.

April 4 - Thursday

The boys and I drove to Burrton with ten hogs. We got $4 a hundred pounds. Together they weighed 1970 pounds and we received $78.80. When I came home Brother Unruh and I drove to the young Franz Adrian and Gerhard Baergen regarding some disagreements. I gave Brother Unruh 85¢ for the Sunday school papers.

April 5 - Friday

I planted potatoes. It was a very pleasant day.

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April 6 - Saturday

Peter Ratzlaff and I drove to Enns before noon to get some corn. I bought two bushels and Peter Ratzlaff bought ten bushels at 40¢ a bushel. I planted corn after dinner. It was rainy in the forenoon but nice weather otherwise.

April 7 - Sunday

Worship service was held in the church. Brothers Unruh and Gaeddert preached. Gaedderts, Unruhs, Kliewers, Flamings, Jacob Schmidts, Ben Ratzlaffs and Heinrich Beckers were all at our place after dinner. We preachers drove to the OK schoolhouse in the afternoon to talk to the teacher about Sunday school and a singing session. Peter Ratzlaffs and Benjamin Ratzlaffs visited us in the evening. It was a nice day.

April 8 - Monday

It was raining in the forenoon. After dinner I planted corn.

April 9 - Tuesday

I planted corn before dinner and attended the Brotherhood meeting after dinner.

April 10 - Wednesday

It was rainy all day and towards evening it rained rather heavily. Ewys came today and brought the man I had hired. His work begins today (Wednesday) and he will receive $105 for seven months' work, $15 a month.

April 11 - Thursday

I grafted the trees and planted the gooseberry bushes. Brother Benjamin's mare died today. The weather was good, somewhat windy, but sunshiny.

April 12 - Friday

I planted corn, Peter and Bernhard hauled manure. It was somewhat windy. Brother Gaeddert stopped at our place in the evening and brought Katharina Ratzlaff home. She had helped them do some cleaning.

April 13 - Saturday

I finished planting 20 acres of corn. It was cloudy all day. Peter and Bernhard hauled manure, Johann cultivated.

April 14 - Sunday

We attended church. Brother Flaming preached on the Palm Sunday story and I gave the closing prayer. It was cloudy all forenoon.

April 15 - Monday

Peter and I drove to get some oats. I bought 60 bushels at 19¢ a bushel, which amounted to $11.40 and I still owed him $1.40 from before. Then I drove to Halstead and paid Linn $15 interest on the $100 note. We drew up a new note which draws 12% interest and will run until January 1. Then I paid David Goertz $20 interest on the old note which leaves $90.00. This was one I had underwritten for a Franz Rosakewitz and I had to pay it since he left for Nebraska and did not tell anyone about it. I, therefore, have to pay the note. On the way home I stopped at Baergens whose 10-year old child had been badly burned from the feet up to the chest. They have great distress and misery. May the Lord have mercy on them and not let them despair entirely. My wife and children had gone with me as far as Ewys. Found everything in good shape at home.

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April 16 - Tuesday

I drove to Burrton with Abraham Warkentin to take care of the note on the land that I had bought since he had rented it for one year at $25. The note and money were returned to him. It was a very nice day.

April 17 - Wednesday

I branded some cattle at father's before dinner. The boy chopped down some hedge. Johann plowed after dinner and I planted grapevines near the house. We had a good rain during the night, but it was very nice during the day. The old Peter Ratzlaff stayed at our house for two nights. Peter Schmidt sold some year-old mules to Piers for $10 apiece. Jacob Schmidt got only $8 apiece.

April 18 - Thursday

Bernhard and I drove to McPherson with 70½ dozen eggs for which we were paid 8¢ a dozen. This amounted to $5.64. Bernhard made some purchases for $3.45 for which I gave him the money. It was cool before noon but nice after dinner.

April 19 - Good Friday

Gaedderts and we drove to Enns school to conduct a worship service. I preached on Hebrew 12, 2, and Brother Gaeddert on the two words "I am thirsty." After dinner we visited Janzens. It was a very nice day.

April 20 - Saturday

I worked in the garden before dinner. The boys harrowed. Bernhard planted hedge. Peter worked on the pasture corral. I stopped at Lorenz after the funeral of Heinrich Baergen's nine-year old child. He had been badly burned while they were burning corn stalks. It has been a very nice day.

April 21 - First Holiday Sunday

Brother Goertz and Brother Gaeddert preached in church. Brother Goertz preached about the Easter story and Brother Gaeddert on _____. It was a nice day.

April 22 - Second Holiday Monday

We attended church. Brother Heidebrecht and I both preached. I preached on the walk to Emmaus and Brother Heidebrecht on Paul's statement, "that Christ had appeared to several brethern and lastly also to him." It was a nice day. We visited Peter Ratzlaffs in the afternoon. There were many guests, among them were also Jacob Edigers.

April 23 - Tuesday

Peter Schmidts and we drove to Johann Ratzlaffs. Father, Johann Dycks and Ben Ratzlaffs were there, also Brother Unruh, Heinrich Pauls and Gerhard Schroeders; they took Brother Goertz along. All three of us, Goertz, Unruh and I preached. There was considerable wind.

April 24 - Wednesday

Heinrich and Johann harrowed. Schwarz and Bernhard chopped hedge. After dinner, Peter and Little Johann threw cornstalks over. We took the cattle off the rye pasture today.

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April 25 - Thursday

Peter planted six acres of corn. I tied up the grapevines and planted some grape cuttings. Bernhard rooted out volunteer cherry trees and both Johannes and he knocked the corn stacks over. There was a wedding at Abraham Martens today. Gerhard Baergen was here today to borrow our boar hog but he had to go and get it from Peter Schmidt. I told him he could do this. The weather was pleasant today. Heinrich borrowed a load of hay. He can get this from the stack in the sandhills.

April 26 - Friday

I set out grape plants before dinner and Peter worked the back two acres. Bernhard dug out some hedge and Peter and I set some fence posts and planted some mulberry trees. Johann hauled some corn stalks and also raked corn leaves together. There was a high wind today and it is very dry.

April 27 - Saturday

I repaired the fence and Peter did some work on the harness. Johann hauled corn stalks. It was nice weather.

April 28 - Sunday

Sunday I preached at Gaedderts on the subject, "Those that are well do not need a physician, but those who are ill." It was a nice day.

April 29 - Monday

It rained all day. Peter worked on the harness.

April 30 - Tuesday

We attended church before dinner to celebrate the 100th anniversary of America's Independence from England and the inauguration of its first president. We preachers were together at Uncle Kleiwers after dinner. My father-in-law and I went together.

May 1 - Wednesday

We plowed the ground back of the church to plant corn. The weather was nice.

May 2 - Thursday

Peter plowed alone at the same place. My father-in-law and I drove to Hutchinson with butter and eggs. We received 12½¢ for the butter and 10¢ for the eggs. It was a nice day. We went through the packing house where they butcher hogs and cattle.

May 3 - Friday

We hauled nine loads of hay from the sandhills to mulch the potatoes. It was a nice day.

May 4 - Saturday

The boys plowed the land back of the church. I did various jobs here at home. It was quite windy.

May 5 - Sunday

My father-in-law, D. Unruh, Benjamin Ratzlaff and I drove to Halstead to attend the baptism of five Indian children. This was the first fruit of our mission work among the Indian tribes. Christian Krehbiel gave the first talk in English for the Indian children on the subject, "I am the Way, no one comes to the Father but by Me." Then Heinrich Richert talked in German on, "Come unto me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Then Brother Heinrich Voth talked on the text, "I sowed, Appolo watered, but God gave the growth," then a talk in English directed to the Indians and then he baptized them and received them into the church. Afterwards Brother Krehbiel, Heinrich Richert, and Elder Jacob Toews gave them their greetings and wished them well.

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Brother Regier gave the closing prayer and mentioned that he had wished for fifty years for an event like this to happen. Then we were permitted to go to the schoolhouse and each one partook of his noon meal. In the afternoon there was another meeting at 3:30. Teacher Ewert gave a talk in English. Then Elder Toews talked and Uncle Suderman from Emmaus read a passage and Christian Krehbiel made the final closing. It was a windy day.

May 6 - Monday

It was very windy again. Brother Gaeddert was here in the forenoon and stayed for dinner. Carl brought his two mares to our place to Praid and wants to leave them at our place for some time. Our mare from Piers foaled and had a brown mare colt with a wide white stripe on his nose almost to his back with a white foot in back and the other only partially white, a real nice colt. The boys plowed. The wind blew father's headerbox over and it broke into pieces. The wind died down around midnight and then it rained a little.

May 7 - Tuesday

The boys plowed again. I went to the auction which was held where Krause used to live. The Brotherhood meeting was held in the afternoon. The parents and we went together and took the ladies to Gerhard Beckers. The weather was good during the day but it was very windy towards evening. It was resolved at the meeting to grant the wishes of Heinrich Wedels, the Widow Nachtigal and Heinrich Baergens to join our congregation and accept them as members. Brother Jacob Regier was appointed to notify Baergens and Johann Voth and Abraham Richert were to notify the Wedels of this decision.

May 8 - Wednesday

Peter and Johann harrowed the plot they have been working, and I planted corn there after dinner. It was quite windy from the north and in the evening it started to rain.

May 9 - Thursday

I planted corn close to the creek. Peter and Bernhard hauled manure. Johann cultivated the corn. It was windy again and dry.

May 10 - Friday

It rained a little at night, also during the day. Johann cultivated some of the corn. Peter and Bernhard hauled manure. I repaired father's wagon in the forenoon. Gaedderts and we were at Peter Ratzlaffs after dinner. We all were at our place in the evening. Gaedderts left for home after 10:30. We give thanks to God for the moisture we have received.

May 11 - Saturday

I finished planting the corn back of the creek. Johann cultivated the corn. It was a cloudy and cool day. It may have rained considerably at several places towards evening.

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May 12 - Sunday

We had a nice rain before dinner, but sunshiny after dinner. Benjamin Ratzlaffs, Gerhard Baergens, Gerhard Beckers and the parents were all at our place after dinner. There was only a small attendance at the Bible Study Hour. The next meeting is to be at Baergens.

May 13 - Monday

It was a nice pleasant day. Peter harrowed the corn close to the creek and replanted corn in the afternoon. Johann Ratzlaffs visited us today.

May 14 - Tuesday

It was quite windy. Bernhard replanted corn. Peter plowed the ground for millet. Heinrich harrowed, Johann cultivated the garden and I sowed some sugar cane towards evening. Johann Ratzlaffs were at our house for afternoon vesper. They left for home about 5 o'clock. Our mare from Peter Gaedderts foaled today. She had a brown male colt with a white marking on its head and one white hoof.

May 15 - Wednesday

I planted oats in the garden and millet along the border. Peter replanted some corn. Bernhard hauled manure and Johann cleaned and weeded the garden and cultivated corn after dinner. It was windy and dry. Benjamin's gelding became ill last night and still is very sick today.

May 16 - Thursday

Johann cultivated corn, Bernhard hauled manure and Peter replanted some corn. It was quite windy today. We were invited to a wedding at Benjamin Wedels. It looked very much like it might rain towards evening.

May 17 - Friday

We had a violent rainstorm the 17th and 18th, coming from the northwest. Peter did some repair on the harness. Bernhard hauled hay into the barn. It was rather cool all day. We visited Jacob Schmidts after dinner.

May 18 - Saturday

Peter repaired the plow in the forenoon and in the afternoon he began to break the sod in the pasture land. Bernhard and Johann hauled some wood for a fence. The river flooded so that it flooded some of father's land. It was a pleasant day and cooled off nicely in the evening.

May 19 - Sunday

Brother Gaeddert and I held a worship service in Regier's schoolhouse. My text was Luke 13, verse 7, 8 and 9 - "Chop it off," and Brother Gaeddert's text was 1st Corinthians 10, verses 5 and 6. We were at the Bible Study Hour at Gerhard Baergens in the afternoon. It was a nice day.

May 20 - Monday

Peter broke pasture sod. Bernhard replanted some corn, Johann cultivated corn and I took care of various matters. I went with Jacob Gaeddert in the afternoon to help him with his sow that could not farrow, but everything was all right. It was a pleasant day.

May 21 - Tuesday

Peter broke sod again. Bernhard planted melons before noon and replanted corn in the afternoon. Johann cultivated. It was a pleasant day.

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May 22 - Wednesday

Peter broke up sod and Johann cultivated until dinner. We planted peanuts and melons in the afternoon. It was quite windy today.

May 23 - Thursday

We returned from Newton and Emmaus where Brothers Gaeddert and Unruh had gone for a preachers conference and a school convention. We went in Unruh's horse and buggy. It was a nice day. Brother Unruh and Gaeddert stayed at our place for the night. It started raining at twelve o'clock with a heavy hail. Our wheat is heavily damaged and possibly half of it is ruined. Brother Benjamin's wheat is damaged worse than ours. Brother Peter's is damaged also, but Heinrich's isn't, Dyck's and Becker's isn't hurt, nor father's, Peter's nor Jacob Schmidt's. but the wheat of Heintz', Pauls', Adrian's, Baergen's, Ediger's, Unruh's, G. Becker's, Zelke's and others is badly damaged and in some places the wheat is a total loss.

May 24 - Friday

Peter broke up pasture sod. Johann mowed rye for feed. It was a total loss from the hail.

May 25 - Saturday

We attended the wedding of Peter Sperling's daughter to Jacob Buller, son of Peter Buller. Brother Gaeddert preached the wedding sermon. It was a pleasant day. Peter broke sod before noon. We drove to Enns' in the afternoon. Johann mowed rye all day and Bernhard raked after dinner.

May 26 - Sunday

We had driven to church. We were together at Benjamin Ratzlaffs after dinner for the Bible Study Hour. It was nice weather all day. Brother Goertz preached in church today.

May 27 - Monday

Peter broke sod all day. Johann mowed rye before dinner. I went to the mill in the afternoon with 16 bushels. It rained quite heavily at noon. We got the message at noon that Katherina, daughter of Johann Ratzlaff and Peter Wedel's wife, had died last night at 10 o'clock. Her funeral is to be Wednesday, the 29th. It was good weather today.

May 28 - Tuesday

It rained heavily at night and in the morning but it cleared off about 10 o'clock. I drove to Flamings for the meeting of the preachers. This meeting was to discuss the assignments that had been given and what had been done with them. Preacher P. Ratzlaff had been visited. Jacob received $6 for harvesting the wheat which took four days. New assignments were given to Brother Flaming and Brother Unruh to talk to Wilhelm Janzen about what happened between him and the cook. Aaron Enns, son of Marie Enns, applied again to join the congregation. It was decided to bring it before the congregation. We also talked about communion and to tell the congregation about this. The next meeting is to be held at D. Unruhs in eight weeks because harvest will be in four weeks.

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May 29 - Wednesday

It rained again in the night and in the morning. We drove to Johann Ratzlaffs for the funeral with father and Mrs. Peter Schmidt. We arrived there at 12 o'clock. Brother Gaeddert preached the funeral sermon and I said a few words on Isaiah 41, verse 10, "You are my God." We stayed there for the night. The next day was Ascension Day.

May 30 - Thursday - Ascension Day

We stayed and Brother Gaeddert and I both preached. My text was Mark 16, verses 15-20. Brother Gaeddert preached about the Ascension. We left for home after lunch and found everyone well. It was a nice day.

May 31 - Friday

Peter broke pasture sod in the forenoon. After dinner he began listing. We had a little rain during the night, but otherwise it was fair during the day.

June 1 - Saturday

Peter listed. We had a nice rain Saturday night.

June 2 - Sunday

None of us went to church. After dinner we were at P. Ratzlaffs for Bible Study Hour. It was a nice day.

June 3 - Monday

Peter listed, Bernhard hauled brush. The weather was pleasant.

June 4 - Tuesday

We finished listing. Johann cultivated corn and Bernhard helped. Enns was a guest at our place for dinner. I was asked to come to Gaedderts to help with his sow, she could not farrow.

June 5 - Wednesday

Maria, Peter and I and father drove to Hutchinson. Bernhard left today to work for Gaedderts. He will be paid $8 a month.

June 6 - Thursday

Peter and Johann cultivated corn and I went to Unruhs after lunch to discuss our trip to Pawnee Rock. It was a nice day.

June 7 - Friday

I trimmed the hedge before dinner. Peter plowed and I sowed some millet. At 5o'clock Benjamin and father took us to Burrton. From there Brother Unruh and I drove to Great Bend with Brother Johann and Brother Becker. We had to stay all night in Great Bend because we could not get a team there. The cost to drive from Burrton to Great Bend for two persons was $3.95 and for night's lodging and meals was 80¢. Brother Unruh spent 15¢ extra.

June 8 - Saturday

David Unruh got us from there and we were there for dinner. After dinner we drove to Heinrich Unruhs who was to be installed as deacon. Brother Duerksen and Brother Schmidt, who were to be installed as preachers, were also there. We discussed this and decided that they would be installed into these positions on the second holiday.

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June 20 - Friday

Benjamin Ratzlaff and I drove to Halstead. Benjamin bought two mules from Linn at $225 to be paid in two years, $100 the first year and the rest the second year at 10% interest. I borrowed $100 from Linn to pay some interest and sent it away immediately through the Halstead bank. I also paid $38 for taxes in Burrton.

June 22 - Sunday

I preached at Gaedderts about the rich man and Lazarus. Gaedderts were at Enns school where they celebrated Holy Communion. Then we drove to Johann Pauls for the Bible Study Hour.

June 23 - Monday

We tried out the machine after lunch. We had a rain that night.

June 24 - Tuesday

Mowed all day with one machine. Peter cultivated the corn back of the creek. I shocked all day, weather was nice.

June 25 - Wednesday

It rained quite a bit during the night. We mowed with one machine.

June 26 - Thursday

We mowed all day with one machine. We tried the other one in the afternoon but it would not work. It was a warm day.

June 27 - Friday No entry.

July 6 - Saturday

We finished harvest at noon. Peter got corn from Hege after dinner. Johann cultivated corn. It was a warm day.

July 7 - Sunday

The Bible Study Hour was at our place. It was quite warm.

July 8 - Monday

It rained quite a bit in the morning. The boys cultivated corn all day.

July 9 - Tuesday

We cultivated corn. It rained heavily in the evening. Everything was well soaked. We cultivated corn all day. It was quite warm.

July 10 - Wednesday

We cultivated corn on our land. It was very warm.

July 11 - Thursday

We cultivated corn on the land back of the creek. It was warm.

July 12 - Friday - No entry.

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July 24 - Wednesday

We started to plow. We had a heavy rain the day before. We plowed the rest of the day until Sunday.

July 28 - Sunday

We were in church. Brother Flaming and Brother Gaeddert preached. A deacon from the Old Mennonites was with us as a guest. He gave the introduction by reading the 10th Chapter of the Gospel of John and prayed. Brother Kliewer gave the closing prayer. It was a cloudy day.

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July 29 - Monday

We stacked wheat all day. It was a very dreary day, and no sunshine and a cool north wind.

July 30 - Tuesday

We stacked wheat again. It was cloudy again.

July 31 - Wednesday

We stacked wheat and rye. It was a dreary day.

August 1 - Thursday

We hauled oats on father's place all day and stacked on father's place. It was very cloudy.

August 2 - Friday

We hauled oats together.

August 3 - Saturday

We butchered a hog in the forenoon. We got ten gallons of lard. Benjamin Ratzlaffs took one shoulder ham, 26 pounds, Peter Schmidts one leg of ham which weighed 24 pounds, and the parents took one shoulder which weighed 20 pounds. It rained a little towards evening and also some today. We did some plowing. It was cloudy all day.

August 4 - Sunday

I preached at Gaedderts on Luke 13, 10-17. My wife went with me and we visited with Gaedderts in the afternoon. It was a cloudy day.

August 5 - Monday

Heinz, Benjamin Ratzlaff and I drove to Newton about the mortgage. We had it changed, and had the deed registered which cost $1.10. I paid Lehman $62 for the corn planter for Benjamin Ratzlaff. It can stay there three months longer. I bought some harness for $29.50 to be paid the first of October. It has been a cloudy day.

August 6 - Tuesday

We plowed all day. It has been mostly cloudy all week.

August 11 - Sunday

It rained so hard in the morning that we could not drive to the worship service, but it cleared off in the afternoon. We drove to Johann Dierks with Peter Schmidts. Jacob Voths and Peter Ratzlaffs were also there.

August 12 - Monday

We tried to plow Monday, but it was too wet so that it did not work too well.

August 13 - Tuesday

We plowed all day. Brother Gaeddert came towards evening and brought a brush from Halstead for me. It cost 35¢. We drove to the old Peter Ratzlaffs with Benjamin Ratzlaffs today.

August 14 - Wednesday

We plowed all day. It was quite warm.

August 15 - Thursday

Johann and Heinrich plowed all day. Peter and I went to Halstead and I bought $16.10 worth of wood from Ruth to board up the granary. This cost $19 per thousand. Also bought a harrow from Dierks for $15 to be paid at the new year.

Page XXXVIII of Original 1889-1890

November 8

The funeral of Willems son-in-law was at Willems on this day. The son-in-law's name was Johann Harder. Brother Gaeddert preached the funeral sermon on "My Life is Christ and Dying is My Gain."

November 9

We drove to Gerhard Baergens whose wife was very ill. It was a nice day.

December 9

Brother Christopher Heinz died on this day and he was buried the 11th. The funeral was at Benjamin Ratzlaffs. Brother Gaeddert gave the funeral sermon.

1890

January 6 - Sunday

Gerhard Baergen's wife died and the funeral was on the 10th. Brother Gaeddert gave the funeral sermon. We drove to the old Peter Ratzlaffs for the evening. It rained heavily all evening, so that we could not drive home until 11 o'clock. Then it became clear and there was bright moonlight.

January 13 - Sunday

It started snowing heavily at 4 o'clock in the morning and kept it up all morning. It was not quite as stormy after dinner, but it remained cold.

January 19 - Sunday

Our brown mare from Wedel foaled. She had a brown mare colt with a wide white marking on her nose just like the one from last year.

January 23 - Thursday

We and Benjamin Ratzlaffs drove to Alexanderwohl on the sled. We also drove to Newton the other day and came home after dinner. We found everything in good condition, everyone was well and I thank the Lord for this.

January 25, 1890 - Saturday

Heinrich Baergen injured his foot badly in a machine.

January 26 - Sunday

Johann Toews and I went to see him in the evening.

January 28 - Tuesday

I hauled a load of 28 bushels of wheat to Inman, which I sold for 50¢ a bushel. On the way back I stopped at Brother Goertzen and did not get home until 11 o'clock in the evening. The road was very bad.

January 30 - Thursday

Brother Johann Duerks and I drove to Heinrich Baergen, who was very sick. We also stopped at David Schroeder's place.

January 31 - Friday

I pruned trees before dinner and worked on the pump after dinner. The wind was northerly all day and it was cloudy.

February 1 - Saturday

I drove to Franz Goertz and borrowed a bench for Heinrich Baergen and took it to him after dinner. From there I went to Lindscheids and bought 100 bushels of corn at 12¢ a bushel. It had been a nice day.

February 2 - Sunday

I drove to the Garden Taven (?) to conduct a worship service. My text was the Gospel of John 13, verses 21-32. Johann was with me but he stayed at Peter Ewys. I was there in the afternoon. Mrs. Ewy was sick.

Page XXXIX of Original 1890

February 3 - Monday

We preachers got together at Uncle Balzers. It was a nice day. When I came home in the evening Wiens Siebert was here. He bought two geese at $1.00 each.

February 4 - Tuesday

I bought a fork for Peter for 90¢ and some stockings for 25¢ in Burrton.

1890	July 17	-	Coal - - -	$ 7.27
	July 24	-	Coal - - -	7.03
	July 30	-	Coal - - -	7.27
	Aug. 2	-	Coal - - -	4.00
				$ 25.57

Threshed wheat	- 3500 bushels -	$ 157.00
Threshed rye	- 240 bushels -	26.34
Threshed oats	- 878 bushels -	10.80
		$ 194.14
	Less	25.57
	Total	$ 168.57

1897

October 4

Benjamin paid $25 which had been borrowed from Jacob Linn in Halstead and which Heinrich Schultz and I had underwritten. I gave it to father.

Page XXXX of Original - 1891

February 26

Abraham Duerksen's little 17-day old daughter was buried in Richerts (their parents-in-law) garden. I gave the funeral sermon on Psalm 39, "Teach us that we must die." In the month of February Peter Ratzlaff sold his farms here to his brother and bought a half section for $300. Lots of snow and blowing and drifting.

March 1 - Sunday

Heinrich Baergen's wife died December 28th and was buried the last of December. He married Anna Warkentin the 1st of March. She is the daughter of Bernhard Warkentin. Brother Gaeddert gave the wedding sermon. From the wedding we drove to Heinrich Pauls who had just died. They were preparing the body for burial. He was buried on the 4th. Brother Gaeddert conducted the funeral service.

March 8 - Sunday

A funeral took place at Tobias Duerksen's, whose little son Jacob, 2 years, 2 months and 2 weeks of age, had died. I gave the funeral sermon. My text was from Revelation 21, verses 1-8. Brother Benjamin and I drove to Alexanderwohl that evening as far as Uncle Peter Richert and stayed there for the night.

March 9 - Monday

In the morning we drove on to Newton. We paid our taxes $206.75. I paid all of it, also on Benjamin's farm. We returned home and arrived there about 8 o'clock, well and safe, for which we thank the Lord.

March 10 - Tuesday

Peter and Peter Ratzlaff hauled wheat to town, 500 bushels which I had sold to D. Enns for 75¢ a bushel. I pruned some trees. The wind had been southerly for two days but turned to the north in the evening and it was quite cold.

March 11 - Wednesday

Northerly winds all day, with some thawing but freezing at night. It also snowed during the night. Johann Pauls were our guests in the afternoon.

March 12 - Thursday

We had good weather. We butchered hogs at Jacob Schmidt's place.

March 13 - Friday

We had nice weather with southerly winds. I worked on the hedge fence. Johann and Peter hauled straw. Mama and I helped Heinrich Beckers butcher a calf in the afternoon.

March 14 - Saturday

I again worked on the hedge. Johann and Peter both hauled straw at the hedge. It was a nice day with southerly winds.

March 15 - Sunday

I preached at Gaedderts but went home after dinner because Brother Gaeddert had to go to the wedding of Widow Fraese to perform the ceremony. Johann Janzen came to our home but got sick here, probably the flu. It was a nice day. H. Unruhs stopped here in the evening but went on to Benjamin Ratzlaffs.

Page XXXI of Original

March 16 - Monday

Brother Unruh and I drove around to try to finish our rounds of visiting. It was 12 o'clock in the evening before we came home. It had been a nice day. Johann paid a $2.60 bill in a store in Inman.

March 17 - Tuesday

The funeral of David Gaeddert's little daughter Sarah, age 11 months and 14 days, was at their place today. I gave the funeral sermon on Jeremiah 12, verse 5. We had a gentle rain in the evening, it was a nice day otherwise.

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August 18

Hauled the first load of wheat for which I got 81¢ a bushel in Inman. 52 bushels gave me $42.12.

August 19

Peter and Heinrich hauled two loads at 78¢. They had 100 bushels and three pounds, making a total of $78.38. Of this I gave Peter $10 and Heinrich Becker $50.00. I paid $4.43 for Heinrich Ratzlaff for coal and $7.95 for us. Johann Ratzlaff owes $32.88 on his loan which we settled the 23rd of June. Johann Becker lent John Ratzlaff $3.50, I am to pay this.

Page XXXIV of Original 1892

It has been quite cold the entire month of January, but very nice weather most of the days, clear and dry.

February 1 - Monday

I sold 20 head of cattle for $380.00 in the morning. Then I hauled 23 bushels of wheat to Inman for which I was paid 67¢. The wheat weighed 57½ pounds. I paid our debt in Inman, over $8.00, on the return trip. I stopped at Heinrich Ratzlaffs and took Jacob Brun, who had come alone from Russia recently. We hired him for a year. If the harvest is fair, he will get $125. If the harvest is good, he will get $150. It has been a nice day but rained a little during the noon hour.

February 2 - Tuesday

Johann Becker, Jacob, and our Heinrich drove the cattle to Halstead where I had sold them. I paid Riesen and Dyck $58.50, and paid Jacob Linn $32.50 for Benjamin Ratzlaff. I got this from Abraham Willem. Johann bought an axe and hatchet, both together cost $2.00. It was a nice day. Driving the cattle went well. We preachers were together at Uncle Gaedderts. Peter Ratzlaff's widow was there also.

February 3 - Wednesday

Brother Gaeddert came to get me in the morning. His mare could not have her colt. After I turned it right, everything went well. When he brought me home Johann Ratzlaffs were at our house to visit. It was a nice day.

February 4 - Thursday

It rained a little from the third to the fourth until the sun rose, then it became very clear. Then it became cloudy after dinner and windy and towards evening it rained again. We butchered three young pigs and a year and a half old ox. We got 20 gallons of lard. The parents, Benjamin Ratzlaffs, Johann Ratzlaffs, Johann Dycks, Peter Schmidts and Jacob Schmidts helped us. We thank the Lord that he gives us this food.

February 5 - Friday

Johann Ratzlaffs left for home in the morning. It snowed a little. Jacob hauled manure. Johann shelled corn and I pruned trees in the afternoon. Father-in-law became very ill during the night, but had improved somewhat by the next evening.

February 6 - Saturday

It started to rain during the night and rained heavily during the forenoon with some snow falling. Johann and Jacob shelled corn. Johann hauled feed for father's cattle after dinner. I paid Johann Becker $30.00 in addition to what he had taken earlier.

February 7 - Sunday

It froze quite a bit last night. Jacob, Johann and I drove to church. Jacob drove to Heinrich Ratzlaffs from church and to his parents. We were at Heinrich Wedels during the day and drove to the parents in the evening.

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February 8 - Monday

We stored the headerbox in the shed before dinner and pruned the trees after dinner. It was a nice day.

February 9 - Tuesday

I helped the parents load hogs before dinner. Johann took them to Burrton. They sold for $3.90 a hundred. It was a nice day. After dinner we discussed transgressions for a long time, almost three hours. We agreed that if she did not show more repentance than she had before, we would have to give her notice of dismissal from the church. We wanted to bring her before the Lord in earnest prayer, that He may make her see her sinful life and lead her to see the right way. We were going to wait, however, until she had recovered from the birth of her child with the dismissal. The old Duerksens were accepted as members of the church. Brother Goertz was given the responsibility to give them this message. It was proposed that the choice of the choir of Franz Adrian as their teacher be accepted and approved.

February 10 - Wednesday

I drove to Gaedderts to settle our account about the breeding stallion which we had not done for two years. I gave him the $30.00 Peter Ratzlaff had given me Tuesday for two colts. Brother Gaeddert has $12.00, then we are even. Johann hauled feed for the parents'cattle. It was a nice day.

February 11 - Thursday

I repaired the fence for the cows. Brother Benjamin and their Johann Janz were here and we drove to Benjamin Ratzlaffs in the evening. It was cool in the morning, but a nice day during the rest of the day.

February 12 - Friday

I worked in the barn before dinner. Heinrich Ratzlaff and their parents, Bruns, came to visit us, but I drove to Uncle Kliewers for the engagement of their daughter Anna to Johann Gaeddert from Alexanderwohl. I stayed for the evening. It was nice weather.

February 13 - Saturday

We drove to Peter Goertzens and stayed there for dinner. Brother Goertz and I drove to Wichita. I had made a cross before this. I fixed this and had to pay 50¢. Then we also drove to Duerksens and told them about the Brotherhood meeting. I arrived home at 10 o'clock. It had been nice all day, but the wind turned north in the evening and it turned quite cold. I bought a dose of powder for the stallion for which I paid $1.00.

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February 14 - Sunday

It was quite cold in the morning, but became warmer during the day. I had to go to Gaedderts in Brother Goertz's place and took Jacob with me. He drove to his parents after dinner and I stayed there until he returned. Peter and Jacob Schmidts and we visited the parents in the evening. Aganetha was quite sick, probably the flu.

February 15 - Monday

Johann hauled cornstalks again and I worked in the garden. Jacob hauled manure. It was a nice day. Gerhard Becker castrated our boar hog, but the hog died while he was doing this. It weighed 200 pounds.

February 16 - Tuesday

Jacob hauled manure, Johann worked on the hedge and I worked in the garden. It was a nice day.

February 17 - Wednesday

Johann worked on the hedge. Jacob hauled straw to the hedge after dinner. Johann hauled feed for the cattle. I settled my accounts with father. I still owed him $102.84 since 1883, plus $39.25 interest. He also owed me for several colts. This paid for the interest and the $2.84, and I still owe him $100 which will draw 6% interest and can run awhile. It was a nice day.

February 18 - Thursday

We sold 12 hogs at $4.00 a hundred which brought $87.20. I bought hedgeposts, some for 7 cents and some for 12 cents apiece. Grandfather took 22 home for us. It was cloudy and rainy all day. I paid Heinrich Ratzlaff from Burrton $7.00, Jacob $18.75, and Pellsen $8.65.

February 19 - Friday.

We butchered 2 hogs, got 13 gallons of lard. It was cloudy and rainy all day but not cold.

February 20 - Saturday

Jacob chopped posts, Johann hauled feed. Heinrich Unruhs from the Canton congregation visited us in the afternoon and stayed for the night. They were at Julius Heinz for the evening. It was a cloudy day.

February 21 - Sunday

I had to preach at Gaedderts. My text was Genesis 41, "Today I remember my transgressions." After dinner we attended the funeral of Peter Balzer's second wife. Brother Gaeddert conducted the funeral service. It was cloudy all day, but cleared in the evening. We visited Peter Schmidts in the evening.

Page XXXVIII of Original

February 22 - Monday

We were at Johann Duerksens for dinner and lunch at Heinrich Beckers and in the evening we were at home. I also settled my account with Peter Schmidt, my former hired man, and paid him. He still had $60 coming. I also gave his brother Johann $10 for our former little Johann Brudebaker. This was his for interest on the $100 that I have had for a little over a year. It was cloudy almost all day. The young Cornelius Vogt left his brown mare here.

February 23 - Tuesday

WE attended the wedding of Anna Kliewer, daughter of Gerhard Kliewers, to Johann Gaeddert from Alexanderwohl. Brother Pankratz from Alexanderwohl performed the ceremony. After lunch a Free Methodist also gave a sermon on "I came to seek and save what is lost." It was cloudy almost all day and it rained in the evening. Johann hauled a load of hay, which we had borrowed in the spring, to Heinrich Regiers. Jacob sharpened fence posts.

February 24 - Wednesday

We started to set posts in the afternoon on the eight-acre piece of land near the river. It was clear weather today.

February 25 - Thursday

We set posts again. It has been a very nice warm day.

February 26 - Friday

We set posts again. Heinrich chopped corn stalks with the cutter. It was a nice day. Adam Becker and the Elder Mr. Unruh from the Canton congregation were at our place when we came home for dinner. They were out to trade horses and had also been at Heinrich Becker's.

February 27 - Saturday

We set fence posts before dinner. After dinner we were at Martin Friesens for the engagement of their daughter Maria to the son of the Widow Toews. It was a rainy day.

February 28 - Sunday

It froze during the night. I had to go to church to preach. My text was Luke 12, 13-21. Brother Unruh also gave a sermon. Jacob Schmidts and we visited the grandparents after dinner. It was a clear day all day.

February 29 - Monday

We were together at Peter Heidebrechts.

March 1 - Tuesday

We set fence posts all day. Konrad was at our house for dinner. It was a clear day but it froze at night. We gave Heinrich Ratzlaff $100 to send to the Halstead bank from Burrton. He sold his hogs in Burrton for $15.35. They weighed 390 pounds, which was a good price.

March 2 - Wednesday

We were at Jacob Schmidts in the forenoon. The Friesen bridal couple was also there. From there we attended Brother Gaeddert's birthday celebration, several guests were present. It was clear and windy.

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March 4 - Friday

It was cloudy all day, we also had some rain. Grandfather and Brother Gaeddert left on a visiting trip.

March 5 - Saturday

Father returned home before dinner. We cleaned some wheat.

March 6 - Sunday

The road was very bad and only a few attended church. It rained mixed with some snow and it was quite cold. In the evening we were at the parents for a little while.

March 7 - Monday

Delivered some milk to Friesens. I did some repair work on the harness. Brother Gaeddert stopped at our place on his way from Nickels. It was a clear day but somewhat cool.

March 8 - Tuesday

The wedding at Martin Friesens was celebrated today and we were there. Uncle Klassen gave the wedding sermon. It was a beautiful day.

March 9 - Wednesday

We were at Friesens before dinner. I worked with the trees. It was a nice day.

March 10 - Thursday

I drove to see the Widow Toews beyond Inman to buy oats, bought 50 bushels at 25¢ a bushel. It was quite cold. Peter Ratzlaffs visited Heinrich Beckers in the evening and I also went there on horseback for a while.

March 11 - Friday

Drove to Burrton with four hogs which sold for $4.00 at 100 pounds and I received $42.00. I paid the lumber yard for the posts I had bought and also for Brother Benjamin Ratzlaff, $23.00; and for Jacob, $10.00. I also bought some wood to brace up the corner posts in the pasture corral. I also sent $126 to -----, $42.00 for me and $84.00 for grandfather. I also had the Ewert note along that Banman was to sign and I stopped there but he was not at home. It was a nice day.

March 12 - Saturday

I worked on the pasture fence on the 80 acres. Johann and Jacob plowed. I stayed at home after dinner. Peter Wedels from the Canton congregation came to visit us in the evening and stayed for the night. The mare from Jacob Becker had her colt towards evening. It was a mare colt with a white marking in front of the head. It had been a nice day.

March 13 - Sunday

I had to conduct the worship service in the Locke school. We were at the old Heinrich Janzens for dinner and at Bernhard Warkentins after dinner and at Peter Schmidts for the evening. Wedels were also there.

March 14 - Monday

We had a heavy snow all night and all day. We helped butcher hogs at Jacob Schmidts.

March 15 - Tuesday

We visited all day before dinner at Johann Duerksens, after dinner at Peter Sperlings and at David Unruhs in the evening. It was quite cold. Wedels left for home today.

March 16 - Wednesday

It snowed again at night and in the morning. I repaired some on the harness, Jacob and Peter Schmidts visited us. It was a cool day. Gerhard Becker brought his mare to our stallion.

March 17 - Thursday

I worked on the harness all day. Jacob hauled feed for the cattle. It was clear but cold.

March 18 - Friday

We drove to Duerksens for the examination. Then we were at D. Enns in Buhler and at Gaedderts in the evening. It had frozen quite badly when we drove home, and the road was bad.

March 19 - Saturday

I drove to the old Mr. Nickel with Johann Toews. In the afternoon I rode on horseback with the stallion to Jacob and Peter Schmidt and left him with a mare at Jacob Schmidts. It was clear but cool.

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March 19 - Saturday continued:

The old Uncle Nickel gave me the story of his life. He was born the 9th of April, 1817 in West Prussia, immigrated to Russia with his parents in 1818. He was baptized by Jacob Warkentin in Sordenau in 1835 and married Susana Unruh from Waldheim in 1845. He immigrated to America with his wife and four children in 1877. He was married 46 years and had nine children, five of which died in Russia.

March 20 - Sunday

We drove to church. Brothers Kliewer and Gaeddert preached. Then we visited the parents after dinner. It froze hard at night and was cloudy all day.

March 21 - Monday

We cleaned the horses feet all day. It was cloudy and above freezing.

March 22 - Tuesday

We drove to Gaedderts. D. Goertz from Halstead, J. R. Toews from Newton, William Ewert from Bruderthal were all there to consult about the Ewert money affair. They spent the night with us. Brother Gaeddert and Goertz went to the parents for the night. It was a nice day.

March 23 - Wednesday

The three Brothers and I drove around all day about the money. I took them to Buhler in the evening where they left for home on the train. The weather was nice and it was clear.

March 24 - Thursday

We washed father's buggy before dinner and then we drove to Franz Adrian's son, whose wife was quite ill. Then in the evening we visited Johann Pauls whose wife was also sick. It was clear and nice weather in the forenoon, but became cloudy after dinner and started to rain lightly towards evening.

March 25 - Friday

Brother Gaeddert was at our place before dinner. Heinrich Ratzlaff and his father-in-law also came to our place to talk about the money we owed in Hutchinson. I pruned trees in the afternoon. It had been a nice day, but it started raining in the evening. My wife and her sister-in-law drove to Buhler after dinner.

March 26 - Saturday

We sowed oats into the garden. Johann drove to McPherson. It was nice weather.

March 27 - Sunday

Brother Balzer and I conducted services. We spent the afternoon with the parents. It was a nice day.

March 28 - Monday

Jacob sharpened posts. Johann harrowed in the garden and they also set fence posts. The parents and we drove to Johann Nickels, but they were not at home. Then we visited Gaedderts. It was a nice day.

March 29 - Tuesday

We preachers got together at Uncle Kliewers. Cleaned oats before dinner and plowed in the afternoon. It rained heavily at times before dinner, but cleared off after dinner.

March 30 - Wednesday

I plowed all day. It rained and hailed in the evening.

March 31 - Thursday

We plowed. We had a very heavy storm all day and the next night it was so stormy that there was damage done in many places.

April 1 - Friday

We sorted potatoes during the day. We visited the parents in the evening. It was cold and windy all day.

April 2 - Saturday

We plowed during the day. I visited Johann Duerksen before dinner. We had our pump repaired at Gerbrants after dinner. Then we drove to Hamburg and bought shoes for Maria, Kathrina, Abraham, Anna and also mama. It was nice all day.

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April 3 - Sunday

Sunday Johann and I drove to church. Brother Unruh preached. It was somewhat windy and it rained a little at noon. Johann Duerksen, Heinrich Ratzlaff, and the parents were our guests after dinner.

April 4 - Monday

It was very windy. Jacob harrowed and Johann and I worked on the pasture corral. We started to sow oats towards evening.

April 5 - Tuesday

Johann and Jacob sowed oats all day. It was a nice day.

April 6 - Wednesday

Johann finished sowing the oats and worked on the pasture fence. Jacob harrowed after the sowing was finished.

April 7 - Thursday

I planted potatoes before noon and sowed oats in the garden and hog lot. The parents and we drove to the funeral of Peter Flaming. Brother Goertz preached the funeral sermon. It was a nice day.

April 8 - Friday

Johann drove to Burrton to get some wire. Jacob hauled feed before dinner and cut corn stalks after dinner and Johann and I drove to the corral to work there. It was somewhat windy.

April 9 - Saturday

We worked on the pasture fence after dinner. Jacob cut corn stalks, Johann and Heinrich did some more work on the pasture fence and also took our cattle to this corral. Mama and I drove to Abraham Richerts for the funeral of his wife who was 73 years and 3 months of age. She lived 30 years with her first husband and 21 years with this one. Brother Gaeddert conducted the funeral service. There were many people at the funeral. It was a nice day.

April 10 - Sunday

I preached at Gaedderts and stopped at Abraham Richerts. It was a rather cool day.

April 11 - Monday

I cut up the last corn stalks before dinner. Johann worked on the road all day. I drove to McPherson with a load of wheat, got 64¢ a bushel, had 52 bushels, minus 10 pounds. This amounted to $33.18. I bought two bridles for $4.00. There was a cool wind from the north, otherwise the weather was nice. I stopped at David Unruhs on the way back. He had a sore heel. The cow had stepped on it.

April 12 - Tuesday

It started raining early in the morning. It rained in the forenoon at times quite a bit. We got the cattle from the pasture after dinner. The wind was from the east all day. We cleaned the wheat.

April 13 - Wednesday

It was cold with a cold northerly wind all day. Johann and I worked on the pasture corral all day. Jacob started plowing the corn ground in the afternoon. Our mare had a male colt in the evening. It had a white back hoof.

April 15 - Good Friday

I drove to Stucky's church. I preached on Hebrew 12, verse --. I spent the afternoon at Elder Stuckys. It was a clear, cool day.

April 16 - Saturday

We finished the pasture fence late in the forenoon. I drove to Newmans in the evening, their daughter Katherina, who had given birth to a little daughter three days before, was very sick.

April 17 - Sunday - First Holiday

Brother Heidebrecht and Brother Gaeddert preached. We visited the parents after dinner. Peter Goertzens were there also. It was nice weather.

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April 18 - Monday - Second Holiday

Peter Schmidts and we drove to Johann Ratzlaffs. I preached there on the text from 1 Corinthians 15, 1-20. It was a cloudy and cool day.

April 19 - Tuesday

Brother Goertz and Brother Gaeddert preached in church. After dinner we visited with Jacob Schmidts.

April 20 - Wednesday

We were at Newmans for the funeral of Katherina who had died. Brother Gaeddert preached the funeral sermon. The weather was nice.

April 21 - Thursday

Johann started to plant corn. It was cloudy and cool all day.

April 22 - Friday

Johann planted corn all day and Jacob plowed after dinner. It was very nice weather.

April 23 - Saturday

We planted corn before dinner and potatoes after dinner. Jacob harrowed.

April 24 - Sunday

We drove to the Enns schoolhouse and I preached there. We were at Jacob Wiens for dinner and lunch. Then we also drove on to Inman to Heinrich Janzens. She is suffering a great deal because of a lightening.

April 25 - Monday

Jacob harrowed all day. We finished planting potatoes. Johann started the plowing for corn on our land close to Beckers. It had been cloudy all day. Toward evening Brothers Toews, Suderman, Zelke and I drove to the Kansas River to see the site where the new bridge is to be built.

April 26 - Tuesday

We preachers got together at Peter Flaming's place. Johann and Heinrich hauled wheat to McPherson. They had 104 bushels which sold at 62½¢ a bushel. There was a strong wind all day.

April 27 - Wednesday

Johann and Jacob plowed and I planted grape stems (saplings). It was nice weather but northerly winds. The colt was sick.

April 28 - Thursday

We plowed with two plows before dinner and started planting corn after dinner, but the planter broke. The weather was nice. Linn was here regarding Brother Benjamin Ratzlaff's debt.

April 29 - Friday

We plowed with two plows. I worked in the garden before noon. After dinner I drove to the examination. Mama drove to Burrton with grandfather. The weather was good.

April 30 - Saturday

We had a strong south wind all day. Jacob plowed all day, Johann plowed the vegetable plot before dinner. In the afternoon he took wheat to the mill to be ground.

May 1 - Sunday

Brother Unruh and Brother Gaeddert preached. The Sunday school was started in the afternoon. The young Gerhard Baergens came to our place when we got home and Konrads also were our guests. It was a nice day.

May 2 - Monday

I planted corn on father's land all day. Johann and Jacob plowed. The morning was cold but it became very warm about 10 o'clock and then became cool again after dinner. Brother Toews brought our bull back. Johann covered the potatoes with hay.

May 3 - Tuesday

We planted corn until almost noon. Heinrich brought the planter home. We planted 13 acres with it at 10¢ an acre, entire amount $1.30. It was a nice day. Johann worked on the road for himself after dinner.

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May 4 - Wednesday

Johann and I hauled 11 hogs to Burrton which sold at $3.85 per hundred. They weighed altogether 2606 pounds and our receipt was for $101.06. One sow alone weighed about 600 pounds. I paid Kansas City $24.25, $16.20 was sent to Topeka and $31.75 was sent to another place in Topeka. All of this was interest. I paid Jacob $12.30, Wilson $19.70. I still owed $25.62 which will carry 8% interest until paid. I bought a small wagon for the children for $3.00. It rained almost all day, it was a good rain. I paid Linn $166.00 for father in Halstead. I had to pay an extra 35¢.

May 5 - Thursday

Johann and Jacob worked on the road. Heinrich drove three calves to Menno Hege which he had sold for $28.00. It had been a nice day.

May 6 - Friday

Heinrich and Johann worked on the road. Johann worked for Jacob. I checked something on the pasture fence and Jacob harrowed after dinner. I closed up the fence so that the cattle and horses could not get on the rye field any more. Our Sinne had her foal today. She had a male colt with a white marking on her head and one white back hoof. We had a northeast wind, but it was a nice day.

May 7 - Saturday

I started planting corn close to Beckers. It started raining after dinner and also rained in the night, the wind was from the east. We got the young red heifer in from the pasture and she had a black heifer calf that night.

May 8 - Sunday

Brother Kliewer and I preached in church in the forenoon and it also started to rain and rained all afternoon and all evening. The wind was in the north all day. In the afternoon we were at Jacob Beckers. The river already was out of its banks.

May 9 - Monday

We drove on Monday morning to get to the pasture, but the river and the Place-fork were flooded so that the cattle had only a small place to graze. We hauled hay into the barn before dinner. I worked on the hedge after dinner. Brother Unruhs visited us.

May 10 - Tuesday

I worked on the hedge. The Brotherhood meeting was held in the afternoon. We discussed the question of the charivari and we agreed to warn our youth about this in all sincerity and earnestness, and about _____drinking and disorderliness. It was decided to carry this and show patience and watch his behavior. It was decided to repair the fence as soon as possible and we agreed to give the family 50¢ for this purpose. Those who could give more should do so. We were encouraged to have another collection for the hungry in Russia before June 1st and sent away by then. Uncle Kliewer's son's running away was discussed. He should come to Brother Gaeddert and discuss this with him and a third person asked to be present and report to the next Brotherhood meeting. The old Jacob Kliewer was taken into the congregation. We talked about where the people coming to the teachers' conference should be fed, whether in church or in the homes, and we agreed this should be done in the church. There was a northerly wind all day and it was quite cool

Page LIII of Original

May 11 - Wednesday

We could get to our cattle since the water had gone down quite a bit, but the fence had been ruined considerably in places. Brother Gaeddert left his two mares here and stayed for dinner. It was cloudy part of the morning, cleared but got cloudy again in the afternoon. I planted corn next to Becker's. Johann and Jacob mulched the potatoes. The wind turned south today.

May 12 - Thursday

We wanted to plant corn in the morning, but it started raining, although not too much and it was clear in the afternoon. We went to the corral. Two cows had mired down in the river, but we got them out. It rained heavily towards evening with some hail. This did not do any damage because there was little wind. Piers was here with his mare to have her with our stallion. Our Flori had a male colt this evening. It has white hoofs on her back legs.

May 13 - Friday

We repaired the pump before dinner. Johann got the repairs from Burrton Thursday. Johann and Jacob hauled manure after dinner. My wife and the children visited Jacob Schmidts.

May 14 - Saturday

I drove to Hamburg in the forenoon to try to buy some corn from the farmers. I did buy 100 bushels at 28¢ a bushel from Cornelius Epp later in the day.

May 15 - Sunday

It was a nice day. Brothers Flaming and Goertz preached in church. There was Sunday school after dinner. I had the class of small children. Sisters-in-law Anna and Aganetha visited at our place.

May 16 - Monday

It was rainy in the forenoon but nice in the afternoon. Heinrich planted corn before dinner and I harrowed. Johann hauled a load of corn from Epps and I planted corn after dinner. Johann planted corn on the land that had been listed. Jacob hauled manure. It rained quite a bit in the evening.

May 17 - Tuesday

It rained again at night. We mulched the potatoes before dinner. Jacob hauled manure after dinner. We went to the river after lunch. The sunset was clear. David Unruh brought his mare to leave her with our stallion. It was clear in the evening.

May 18 - Wednesday

We worked on the pasture fence near the river before dinner. Jacob hauled manure. Jacob and Johann both hauled manure after dinner. I planted corn after lunch. It was clear weather with northwest wind.

May 19 - Thursday

I finished planting corn before noon. In the afternoon we went to Jacob Sudermans for the funeral of his mother. Uncle Buhler gave the funeral sermon on John 3, verse 36. Johann worked on the fence at the church. Jacob hauled manure after dinner. It rained again towards evening. It was cool.

May 20 - Friday

Heinrich cultivated. I plowed the grape garden after dinner. Johann and Jacob hauled manure.

May 21 - Saturday

We hauled manure before dinner. In the afternoon we dragged the ground on the yard with two sleds. It was cloudy and cool all day.

May 22 - Sunday

Brother Unruh and I preached at Gaedderts. After dinner Brother Gaeddert and we went to visit Williams. He has sore eyes. It was a nice day.

Page LIV of Original

May 23 - Monday

We dragged dirt on the yard all day. It was a nice day.

May 24 - Tuesday

We preachers got together at Brother Goertz's place. _____ letter was read and it was decided not to bring him before the Brotherhood meeting, but to talk with Bernhard Warkentin, Brother Gaeddert and me. Mr. Sperling should be called upon. Maybe Unruhs should go there to visit and settle the matter. The singers had asked us whether they could bring the organ into the church to accompany the singing when the teachers conference is to be held. We replied that we had invited the conference and it was their duty to serve them with the music and we would leave this up to them. The holy communion was also discussed. Our next meeting is to be at D. Unruhs. It was a nice warm day.

May 25 - Wednesday

Brother Gaeddert stopped at our place and we drove to the Stucky Congregation for the school convention. Quite a few were there and there was a lively discussion. It was a nice warm day.

May 26 - Thursday - Ascension Day

Brothers Unruh and Heidebrecht preached. Brother Penner from Bruderthal visited us and also Johann Dierks. The workship service in the church started at 7 o'clock in the evening. Brother Gaeddert gave the introduction by reading Psalm ---. Brother Balzer gave a talk on education and educators. Brother Schellenberg closed the meeting. Cornelius Richerts stayed at our house for the night and Johann Ratzlaffs stayed with Benjamin Ratzlaffs. It was a nice day and evening.

May 27 - Friday

The teachers conference was held in our church. The discussions were lively and interesting. The meals were served and we ate together under the trees. It was a nice day.

May 28 - Saturday

We were at Johann Dierks for dinner and also for lunch. Johann and Heinrich hauled wheat to Inman. The weather was nice. Jacob started to cultivate corn on grandfather's land.

May 29 - Sunday

Brothers Kliewer and Gaeddert preached the fourth Sunday. Brother Gaeddert and I drove to Bernhard Warkentin in the afternoon. We wanted to talk to him about the disturbance his boys had made at Uncle Kliewer's the evening of the wedding. It was a nice day.

May 30 - Monday

Heinrich and I hauled wheat to Inman, we got $48.24 for 92 bushels and 42 pounds at 52¢ a bushel. The weight per bushel was 50 pounds. It was very warm, but turned cool in the evening. Johann replanted some corn after dinner and Johann cultivated. Riesen had been here.

May 31 - Tuesday

Johann and Heinrich hauled wheat to Inman. They had 103 bushels and 20 pounds which sold at 63¢ a bushel. Their total receipt was $65.10. Jacob cultivated corn. My wife and I attended the wedding of Peter Schmidt's children in the Schellenberg church. She did not belong to church. It is sad that this is the case. I went to the wedding against my will. The weather was cloudy and cool and somewhat rainy.

June 1 - Wednesday

Johann and Heinrich hauled wheat to Inman.

June 2 - Thursday

Johann hauled one load of wheat to Inman. Jacob cultivated corn, Heinrich harrowed corn. The weather was nice. I plastered and painted in the small room.

June 3 - Friday

Heinrich harrowed corn and Jacob cultivated and Johann planted corn.

I drove to Halstead for the examination and took grandfather and Johann Pauls along. I bought a cultivator from Dierks and Riesen for $20. They said they would send it to Klassen's mill. I paid a note to Linn which amounted to $139.50 with interest, paid the bank $100 on the threshing machine. Then I paid the last $3 on a $210 note which I had paid except the $3, and got the note back. It was a nice day.

June 4 - Saturday

I painted the floor in the kitchen and also papered the rear house. Johann Toews came to take me to Konrads toward evening. Their son-in-law, Franz Holdorf, had died that afternoon and they wanted to know whether the funeral would be in the church, which we discussed. He also asked whether he could be buried in our cemetery and I promised them he could. The weather was nice.

June 5 - Sunday

Brother Balzer and Brother Gaeddert preached. We were with the parents for dinner and spent the afternoon there.

June 6 - Monday

I preached at Gaedderts before noon and the funeral of Holdorf was in the church. After dinner I read the 90th Psalm and offered prayer and Brother Gaeddert preached the funeral sermon. His text was John 3, verses 17-19. There were many people at the funeral, Konrads and their friends came to our place for lunch. It was a nice warm day.

June 7 - Tuesday

Brother Unruh and I preached in church. My text was Genesis 3, verse 9 "Adam where art thou?" Brother Balzer and we visited the grandparents in the afternoon. It was a nice day.

June 8 - Wednesday

Jacob cultivated corn on our land before dinner and on grandfather's land after dinner. Johann and Heinrich cultivated the vegetables. Mama and I drove to Moundridge after dinner, made a loan for $1100 at Linn for five years at 8% interest and paid the company in Topeka. There they charged 9%. It was a nice day.

June 9 - Thursday

I got the cultivator ready before noon and Johann cultivated, listed corn after dinner. Jacob cleaned up the corn on father's place. It was a nice day.

June 10 - Friday

Johann cultivated corn. Jacob and I worked on the hedge. It was quite windy.

June 11 - Saturday

Johann cultivated corn all day. Jacob cultivated the corn on grandfather's land for the second time. This took until lunch. I worked on the hedge. It was hot and windy.

June 12 - Sunday

Brothers Balzer and Flaming preached in the church. The Brotherhood meeting was held after dinner. Several matters were discussed. Next Sunday, the 19th, will be the preparatory Sunday for the holy communion and the Sunday after that, the 26th, the communion service itself will be held.

June 13 - Monday

Johann and Jacob cultivated corn and I worked on the hedge. It was very warm.

June 14 - Tuesday

Johann and both of the girls drove to McPherson with a load of wheat. They got 56¢ a bushel and had 48 bushels and 40 pounds. It was very warm. Four couples of Old Mennonites and an elderly uncle were at our place for dinner. They were from Pennsylvania. Brother Gaeddert was also here.

June 15 - Wednesday

Johann and Jacob cultivated corn. I drove to Moundridge with Jacob Schmidt in the afternoon with some seed oats. I also took 10 bushels and 20 pounds of wheat to the mill, we got 30 pounds of flour per bushel from the best grade of wheat and from the bind 33 pounds. I gave Mr. Linn in Halstead $50. He should pay the last half of my taxes in Newton and he should keep the rest since I owed him some. I gave $11 for Jacob Schmidt. I also paid the wood I had bought for the headerbox and paid Johann $8.00 for corn. It was very warm.

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June 16 - Thursday

It rained quite heavily about 4 o'clock in the morning and started again towards evening and rained until we went to bed. Johann and Jacob cultivated corn before dinner, but only a little after dinner. I planted cabbage plants towards evening.

June 17 - 18 - Friday and Saturday

Johann and Jacob cultivated corn and I worked on the hedge before dinner. At 4 o'clock I drove to D. Unruhs and he took me along to Baergens beyond Inman for the night. We were to drive to the Old Mennonite Church that was to be dedicated Sunday. It was a nice day.

June 19 - Sunday

Brother Baergen and I set out for the above-named church in the morning. A Mr. Lehman from Indiana gave a rather long discourse in English after Brother _____ had read and given a prayer. Then Brother Gaeddert made a few remarks and I also on Psalm 144, verse 3. The first speaker, Lehman, closed with prayer and Brother Unruh spoke the blessing. We were at Schlabachs for dinner and for lunch at Baergens. Then we drove as far as Unruhs. My wife, who had come to take me home, was there waiting for me. We stopped at the Widow Janzen, from where we drove home. There we found everyone well and we thank the Lord for this. It was a nice day.

June 20 - Monday

We all were at Johann Dierks for dinner. Then in the afternoon Johann Dierks took grandfather and me to D. Unruhs for the meeting of the preachers. The guests had lunch at Peter Schmidts. Then P. Richerts left for home.

June 21 - Tuesday

We drove to Inman with Peter Kroeker to Aaron Dierks. Johann and Jacob cultivated corn. Johann lent me $20. It was quite warm.

June 22 - Wednesday

Brother Balzer and I drove to Bernhard Warkentin regarding his differences with Abr. Hiebert, that they could not be at peace with each other. The Lord was with us and we got the matter settled. It was a warm day.

June 23 - Thursday

We all worked in the cornfield.

June 24 - Friday

We all worked in the cornfield again.

June 25 - 26 - Saturday and Sunday

We celebrated holy communion. Brother Goertz gave the introduction. Then Brother Gaeddert and Brother Unruh prayed. Brother Kliewer gave the closing prayer. The Lord was with us.

June 27 - Monday

I drove to Burrton and bought a two-bottom plow for $57 and other things we needed for harvest. The rest all worked in the cornfield. It was a warm day.

June 28 - Tuesday

Everyone worked in the cornfield until noon. I inspected the implements to see what needed to be repaired. It was quite warm during the day but it cooled off during the night.

June 29 - Wednesday

Johann and Jacob worked in the cornfield. I started cutting wheat before dinner. It was warm during the day, towards evening it started raining. A hard clap of thunder frightened the horses and they started running. This broke several parts of the machinery. I had Benjamin Ratzlaff set heads the same evening. I drove to Schellenberg's worship service that evening.

June 30 - Thursday

I drove to Gerbrants and had the broken machinery repaired. Johann and Jacob worked in the cornfield. It was a warm day.

July 1 - Friday

Johann Dierks came to our place Friday morning and said we wanted to get the header in shape so that we could start cutting before dinner. He got the old Jacob Brunn to come and help. Becker took the header to Beckers in the forenoon and after lunch we started cutting. It was a warm day.

July 2 - Saturday

It rained considerably in the night, but we could start cutting soon in the morning.

July 3 - Sunday

Brothers Balzer and Kliewer preached in church. The Brotherhood meeting was held in the afternoon because of the offense ____ _____ was guilty of. Grandfather hitched up the horses and grandmother and my wife drove along to Peter Schmidts. It was a warm day. The old Mrs. Nachtigal, who lived at Heinrich Wedels, had died at 9:30 before dinner. Her funeral is to be Monday afternoon.

July 4 - Monday

We headered at Becker's place. My wife and I drove to Wedels for the funeral. Brother Gaeddert gave the funeral sermon. Jacob Abrahams brought his mare to our stallion at noon.

July 5 - Tuesday

We started to header at Dierks in the morning. It worked well all day.

July 6 - Wednesday

We headered for Dierks again and had no trouble. It was warm.

July 7 - Thursday

We started cutting at our place. We had no trouble all day. It was warm.

July 8 - Friday

We mowed at our place again, all went well. Heinrich Regier got me at noon to go to Jacob Schmidts whose wife was very sick. Dierks and Becker lent me a pair of his horses so that Heinrich could mow the last of the rye and Becker's daughter Anna also helped to clean up around the stacks. It was a warm day and got cloudy towards evening.

July 9 - Saturday

We cut at our place and it went well. Our Heinrich mowed at grandfather's with our machine and grandfather helped out at our place. It was a warm day.

July 10 - Sunday

Brother Heidebrecht and I preached in church. Peter Schmidt and we visited the grandparents after dinner. It was a warm day.

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July 11 - Monday

Monday we cut on our place, everything went well. It was a warm day.

July 12 - Tuesday

We cut at our place. There was no wind and it was very warm.

July 13 - Wednesday

We cut at our place until lunch time, when we finished our wheat. After lunch we started cutting for Beckers. It was cloudy before dinner and very warm. It was cooler after dinner and more windy.

July 14 - Thursday

We cut for Beckers all day and finished late in the evening. It was uncomfortably warm.

July 15 - Friday

We cut for Dierks. It got so windy around 8 o'clock that we had to stop mowing for several hours. We cut rye in the afternoon and got ten acres cut by evening.

July 16 - Saturday

It rained heavily in the morning but let up later, everything is thoroughly soaked. Jacob and Heinrich cleaned the last of the wheat. Johann and I brought the horses into the stable.

July 17 - Sunday

It rained all morning and we all stayed home from church. It cleared after dinner so that we visited Abr. Regiers. We also drove to the Galisian Schmidts. She was very sick. We visited the grandparents in the evening and Jacob Schmidts were also there. The children had gone to Sunday school in the afternoon.

July 18 - Monday

We harvested wheat for Dierks until lunch and headed oats after lunch. It was a clear warm day. Mama drove to Hamburg.

July 19 - Tuesday

We started to plow before dinner and Heinrich also plowed after noon. We also mowed wheat for Johann Dierks after noon. It was very wet.

July 20 - Wednesday

We cut oats at Dierks until the middle of the forenoon. Then we finished cutting oats at Beckers until late lunch time. We started cutting our oats close to the church. It was a warm day, but more breezy than yesterday. Jacob Abrahams left his mare here today.

July 21 - Thursday

We finished cutting our oats today about lunch time and this completes the harvest for this year. It was very warm, especially around noon time.

July 22 - Friday

We gathered up the wheat. It was quite warm.

July 23 - Saturday

We raked the wheat together.

July 24 - Sunday

I had to preach in church. It was the fourth Sunday.

July 25 - Monday

We stacked the last of the wheat and also some rye.

July 26 - Tuesday

We stacked rye and hauled one load of oats from our eight-acre patch.

July 27 - Wednesday

We hauled oats together all day. There was a funeral at the Galisian Schmidts in the afternoon. Mrs. Schmidt was buried and I gave the funeral sermon on the text from Luke 16, verse 15. Johann Gaeddert brought us almost a load of oats for our stallion. It was partly cloudy today and started to rain a little, it was quite warm.

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July 28 - Thursday

It rained a little in the morning. Brother Gaeddert was here before dinner and we stored the mowing machine in the shed. Jacob and Heinrich plowed after dinner and we tried the two-bottom plow towards evening. It works very well.

July 29 - Friday

I hauled a load of coal from Buhler before dinner. After dinner we hauled out the engine. Johann hauled another load of coal after lunch and also plowed.

July 30 - Saturday

We worked on the engine all day to get it ready. It was quite warm.

July 31 - Sunday

It rained in the night. I had to go to Enns school to preach. It was quite muddy on the road in places. I ate dinner with Janzens and also visited the young Mrs. Gaeddert who was very ill. She was with Jacob Wiens'. From there I drove to church for the Brotherhood meeting held because of ____ _____.

August 1 - Monday

I drove to Burrton before dinner to buy several things for the threshing machine. It was very warm.

August 2 - Tuesday

We drove to Buhler to see Dr. Siemens who had come there for the first time. Mama has a heavy pain in her breast. It cost 50¢.

August 3 - Wednesday

We started threshing at our place. Threshed 260 bushels of oats and 245 bushels of wheat. It was quite warm.

August 4 - Thursday

We started threshing for Benjamin Ratzlaff before dinner and threshed 273 bushels of oats and 193 of wheat. Then we started at Heinrich Ratzlaff after dinner and threshed 138 bushels of oats and also some wheat.

August 5 - Friday

We threshed for Heinrich Ratzlaffs all day. It was quite warm.

August 6 - Saturday

We threshed for Heinrich until close to noon time, threshed 1284 bushels, he paid $20.00 on his bill. Then in the afternoon we threshed 39½ bushels of wheat and 332 bushels of oats for Dierks. It was quite warm.

August 7 - Sunday

I had to preach at Gaedderts and present the bridal couple. The bridegroom was Leander Janzen from the Alexanderwohl church and the bride a member from our church, the Widow Johann Harder. According to reports they have broken their engagement.

August 8 - Monday

We started threshing for Jacob Becker. We threshed 378 bushels of oats.

August 9 - Tuesday

We worked for Beckers again. It was quite warm. It rained some during the morning.

August 10 - Wednesday

Altogether we threshed 1080 bushels of wheat for Beckers and finished at noon. We started at Dierks. It was a warm day and rained a little in the forenoon.

August 11 - Thursday

We finished at Dierks for a late lunch. We threshed 106 bushels of rye, 1609 bushels of wheat and then some rye towards evening for the folks.

August 12 - Friday

We threshed all day for the parents. It was quite a warm day.

August 13 - Saturday

We threshed for the folks until noon, 179 bushels of rye, 1182 bushels of wheat. After that we threshed 842 bushels of oats for Abraham Warkentin. Towards evening there was a high wind and at some places it rained.

August 14 - Sunday

I gave the introduction in church today and Brother Goertz the sermon. The Brotherhood met after dinner. It was a warm, clear day.

Page LX of Original

August 15 - Monday

We threshed wheat for Abe Warkentin. It was warm. Two workers did not show up.

August 16 - Tuesday

We threshed at the same place. Two helpers were missing. At 10 o'clock the funeral of Herman Heinz was held. He had been kicked by his stallion and died the next day.

August 17 - Wednesday

We threshed for the old Mr. Warkentin until lunch and then started for the young Abr. Warkentin towards evening. The wheat that Warkentin had on the Rempel farm made 1982 bushels.

August 18 - Thursday

We threshed for him all day. Three helpers left us, and our Jacob and Heinrich Warkentin helped out today. Peter Ratzlaff also helped. I paid the three workers and they left. We threshed 968 bushels at Abraham Ratzlaffs.

August 19 - Friday

We started threshing for Julius Heinz before dinner. Our Heinrich, Jacob and Peter Ratzlaff helped again today.

August 20 - Saturday

We finished at Heinz' at lunch time. Then it started raining a little, but we still threshed 203 bushels for Heinrich Nickel.

August 21 - Sunday

Brother Gaeddert had the instruction and at the close the young _____ _____, who had been excommunicated because of his sins, was reinstated as a member. Brother Gaeddert talked about Psalm 34, verses 13-17, how duty and the walk of life have to go hand in hand and bring such a rich reward, but not paying attention to this has just the opposite result. He was reinstated by a special resolution (or dispensation).

There was a wedding after dinner at Abraham Richerts. He married Preacher Peter Ratzlaff's widow. Peter Heidebrecht gave the sermon and Brother Gaeddert performed the marriage ceremony. He also read a short scripture passage "Be happy my soul, the Lord has been good to you." Quite a few people were there. It was a warm day.

August 22 - Monday

We threshed for the old Heinrich Nickels until noon. It rained heavily in the afternoon.

August 23 - Tuesday

Jacob and Heinrich plowed before dinner. It rained all afternoon and more in the evening.

August 24 - Wednesday

In the forenoon I went with the two hired men to show them how to pull the weeds. Gaedderts came to visit us after dinner. Jacob and Heinrich plowed.

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December 19 - 1892

I settled my accounts with Johann from 1891 to the 15th of December 1892. He has $229.25 coming to him. This does not include the 11th of April until harvest. He had $15 a month for this time. Then he has $1.50 a day coming when we paid wages during harvest which amounts to about $55.00. I borrowed $50 from him the 22nd of June 1892 at 8%. I had paid him $30 on the loan I made in 1891 and this has to be subtracted from the $229.25. Then he gets $4.85 wages for this year.

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November 25 - 1901

All of our accounts, the above-mentioned and others which we had in common, also those concerning the land, have all been settled and brought in order with our children, John P. Beckers. They now owe us $170 for the land.

Page LXI of Original - 1893 - 1895 - 1896

Various financial entries about wheat sold, to whom, etc.

Page LXII of Original

This year all of the wheat on our land was blown out and we planted it all in corn. The oats was frozen so that we had to resow that. Who knows what the meaning of all of this may be.

May 4 -

The teachers conference convened in the Buhler church and I attended this. It rained in the morning and was cloudy almost all day.

May 5 -

Johann listed corn on the twelve acres where we had planted rye, Heinrich plowed. Johann listed in the afternoon on the land near the Kansas River. In the evening Brother Gaeddert and Sommer, the editor of the Bundesrate from Indiana were our guests. It was a warm day. Our children have the measles.

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December 18 - Wednesday

Johann Wiebe started to shuck corn. I hired him for one month. He will receive $8 for working 26 days. I paid him $5.00, still owe him $3.00.

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January 23 -

Johann Wiebe started working the second month, his wages are $5 for 26 work days.

Page LXIII of Original

Unexplained financial figures.

Page LXIV of Original

Various financial entries.

PAGE LXV of Original

Various financial entries.

Page LXVII of Original 1896

Jacob A. Kliewer started working for us the 21st of March. His wages are $45 for five months and pasture for the mare; if the wheat makes 20 bushels, he will get $5 more.

Series of Financial Entries

For corn	$ .30
Watch repair	.75
Money to pay Bartel	1.00
Paid Nickel for knife	1.50
Also paid Nickel for supporters	.35
Donation	.10
Halter in Buhler	1.50
Money to pay grandpa	2.50
Money to pay Bartel	.85

On same page -

Elizabeth Kasper was born November 23, 1826 at Grosweide, Russia and was baptized approximately in 1845 in Rudenweider by Elder Benjamin Ratzlaff. She immigrated to America in 1883.

1897

The white sow had ten little pigs. One was killed. I castrated the two stallions on April 27, one was brown with a white marking and white back hooves, both were three years old.

May 1 -

The funeral of Peter Nachtigal's little son, six years and six months of age, was held in our church. I gave the funeral sermon on Romans 8, verse 28 "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him." Brother Gaeddert closed the service. It was a nice clear, sunny day. We gathered up sugar cane and planted kafircorn.

Peter Goertz's time of service was finished yesterday. I sold the black bull to Peterson in Inman for $25, I received $5 and he will pay the remainder when he gets the animal.

May 2 -

Peterson paid the rest, $20.

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June 19 -

We started cutting wheat with the new Milwaukee Binder which cost $125, with one year's time to pay.

June 20 -

Gaedderts, P. Ratzlaffs and we were at Peter Schmidts for dinner. We were in church after dinner for the first young people's meeting which was not really organized as yet.

August 6 - Friday

I paid $35.75 to Franz the 6th of August. He worked $4 time on his debt. I hauled two loads of wheat to Buhler Thursday, the 5th of August, and also two loads on the 6th, altogether 214 bushels, 40 pounds. It brought 60¢ a bushel, which made $128.95, of this I paid Franz $30, $20 for coal in Buhler, $3.87 to (spelling not clear). On the 7th I paid Jacob $25 from this money. Today I sold two cows for $52 and gave Jacob $3. I was paid $8 on the cows and will receive the $44 when he gets the cows next week.

August 11 - Monday

The $44 was paid for the cows today. I paid Maria Toews 50¢ for making Lena's dress. Took Lena to Peter Richerts. Paid Linn $50 on the $100, paid Eyman $12 for the wood for the headerbox and bought a large fork for 80¢.

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August 12 - Tuesday

We plowed, it was quite warm. I repaired some fence.

1899

I settled my accounts with Franz Schmidt. He worked for me for five months minus four days. He started working the 20th of March.

His wages:	March	-	$10.00
	April	-	15.00
	May	-	15.00
	June	-	15.00
	July	-	15.00
			$70.00 - of this I paid $35.00.

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Lists of order of preachers to conduct services.

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Halstead, Kansas February 4, 1888

To: The Committee of the School of Halstead, Kansas

Honorable Gentlemen:

The communication which you handed to me on the 1st of February does not really require an answer on my part and I have accepted with painful dread the necessity because I have no other choice. But it is better if we say little about the matter that is of common concern to us. But since you are so friendly in your letter to me in regard to our further relationship, to express my sincere desire, I respect you for this. Any relationship has to have as its basis sincere mutual respect and above all the truth. I find cause to express myself and think it also my duty to say what I think about the conference resolution in question here, especially since at our last conversation I was not at all familiar with the content of this resolution, I could not very well express myself by word of mouth to you. You probably do not know that I was completely overtaken by surprise by this decision of the conference. I had no hint of this trend of thinking so you speak of past circumstances over which you have had no control, I entirely misunderstood this according to my understanding of the circumstances.

After everything is said, after what I have learned about the circumstances, I find the committee is finding larger difficulties than they expected in the enlarging of the course of study and the hiring of a third teacher, the support from the congregation being under the pressure of the unfavorable economic times. This causes them to think more seriously about the outcome of the matters, whether they can carry it out. I have been very sorry about these unforeseeable

and uncontrollable difficulties and can understand all of the uncomfortable feelings and vexations this situation has caused and I have changed my point of view towards the matter entirely after carefully reading the conference resolution again. There is nothing mentioned in it about unforeseen difficulties, and in my opinion, the difficulties brought up in this resolution could have been avoided.

Everyone knew my theological beliefs when I was called to this position, and was as open to criticism then as today, and those who thought they should express their protest against my views should have made it known then to save my character, my position and honor from harm. I expected differences between my theological views and those of many members of your conference. In spite of this there did not seem to be any warning against my being hired expressed. Therefore, I thought to myself that in your church there was more emphasis on the practical side of christianity and that there was a tolerance toward theological differences. Besides, as anyone who is at all acquainted with the conditions in our school knows, my present position has nothing in common with the theological department.

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That I have used my position here to spread my theological beliefs that have been thought to be dangerous for the reputation of the school has to be proved to me to be true. When your church gave me the call I was completely happy and pleased from my very heart. I felt it was an honor and a trust. I thought it entirely impossible that an honorable congregation should afterward accuse me of being a bad influence because of my theological beliefs and should work against me. I honor differences of opinion and would not hold it against anyone if any had opposed my being hired, but a worthy opponent will not first show trust and friendliness and then attack unawares. This is what has happened to me.

I gave up my position, I made many unavoidable sacrifices in the move and was asked to come here from hundreds of miles away without warning me about the difficulties of such a move. This doubt about the conscience on which this protest is grounded was known through the book that was circulated and was mentioned at the conference held the September before. I can only explain the behavior of those who have treated me so inconsiderately that because they hired me for only one year, they were only obligated towards me for one year. This view is also expressed in the conference decision which advised the committee not to rehire me, that my position is to be considered closed at the end of this year. I have to accuse the committee that they have not given the conference the necessary explanation about this. The committee knows I would have never taken this position if it had been for only one year, and I explained that clearly when I accepted the position, as far as I remember.

What has happened is hard to change or modify. I openly confess that the way the conference resolution is started has hurt me very much.

(part omitted that is not clear)

I am convinced that some members of the committee tried to avoid the passage of the resolution and I want to express my hearty thanks to them.

Sincerely,

E. Otto

Geneology

I, Abraham Ratzlaff, was born August 22, 1850, in the village of Franzthal and baptized by Elder Benjamin Ratzlaff in the Rudenweider church.

I was married April 19, 1873 by our preacher Gerhard Duerkson in Franzthal.

I was elected preacher in 1879 and ordained by Elder D. Gaeddert.

My wife, born Helena Schmidt September 14, 1853 in Franzthal, was baptized in 1879 by Elder Franz Goertz in the Rudenweider church.

One daughter was born March 3, 1874.

Our daughter Eva was born April 30, 1876 at 7 o'clock in the morning and died January 17, 1877 at 11 o'clock in the morning, she had been sick 24 days.

A son Peter was born May 24, 1878, and died March 8, 1880 at 12:30 in the afternoon, he was sick ten months.

Our son Heinrich was born August 30, 1879.

Our son Abraham was born August 8, 1881 and died September 10, 1881, he was not sick.

Our daughter Helena was born September 1, 1882.

Our daughter Katherina was born September 18, 1885 at 2 o'clock in the morning

Our son Abraham was born June 8, 1888 at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Our daughter Anna was born September 16, 1890, Tuesday, at 1:30 in the morning.

Our son Johannes was born April 10, 1893 at 11 o'clock in the evening.

Our daughter Katherina died February 3, 1896. She was sick for ten months, paralyzed for four months, could not move her hands or feet, her spine dried up.

Pages 215 to 220

Financial and breeding dates of livestock entries.

Also preaching schedules for church services was given.

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